

Foreign aid, of course, has many aspects. It consists of a great deal more than handing out food, money or materials. It consists of more than making available technological experience. It consists also—and this is the emergent structure and most vital fact—of providing the organizational structure and mechanism for putting the technology to work. This is the heart of the whole foreign aid program and it is in this area that the I.L.O. will be particularly useful.

So, sir, I congratulate the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) upon his comments today and upon the measures his government is taking to commemorate this anniversary in Canada.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I am very happy that it has fallen to me to say a few words on behalf of the New Democratic party on this important occasion. We welcome the initiative of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in providing the opportunity for this country to pay tribute to the 50 years of service to mankind that have been rendered by the International Labour Organization. It is indeed one of the oldest intergovernmental organizations and it is a matter of pride for us in Canada that we have been associated with it from its beginning in 1919.

The Prime Minister referred to the fact that many distinguished Canadians have made contributions to the work of the I.L.O. and he drew attention to some of those who are in the gallery today. I would like to suggest names such as those of Tom Moore, Paddy Draper and Claude Jodoin, and I think also of the former colleagues of the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development (Mr. Marchand) who have gone over to Geneva from time to time in an associate capacity.

I might also mention the name of Kalmen Kaplansky who, for a number of years, was a member of the governing body and is now director of the Canada branch, which has its office here in Ottawa. We also have the honour of knowing that the head office at Geneva assigned to Mr. Kaplansky the task of co-ordinating internationally the celebration of this 50th anniversary.

● (2:30 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition have indicated some things that are unique about the I.L.O. Perhaps I might add in my own words that I think there are about three reasons for the success of this organization. In the first place,

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from the beginning it has been an organization concerned with people, and not in an ivory tower or academic sense but in terms of their conditions of work, which are the conditions under which they live the major part of their lives. In the second place, this organization has succeeded because it has been genuinely a tripartite organization representative of government, workers and employers, and comprised so that the independence of each from the other two has been clearly established and clearly maintained.

I can speak with some certainty on this point because in 1959, 1960 and 1961 I had the very great honour of being the workers' delegate for Canada at the annual conference held in Geneva. I learned there how useful it is to have this world body with these three groups, government, employers and workers, with equal voice, trying to work out solutions to the problems of the working people of the world. In the third place this organization has been successful because it has pioneered in the proclamation of principles of social and economic justice and has seen to it that those principles were implemented in as much of the world as possible.

I think it might also be said of the I.L.O. that it has shown a tremendous capacity for adapting to new conditions and to the needs of an ongoing world. In its earlier years it concentrated on the adopting of conventions and recommendations. This is still an important part of its work, but it realizes now that, if it is to improve in a substantial way the conditions under which people work and live, it must concentrate on training. Therefore the major work of the I.L.O. today is in the field of technical assistance. It has made great strides which have already helped to raise living standards the world around.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we welcome this opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the International Labour Organization. We are glad that things are being done such as those to which the Prime Minister referred, including the issuing of a commemorative postage stamp. We think there are at least two other things which might be done. We urge that we put real effort into getting more of the conventions and recommendations of the I.L.O. ratified, and if that means doing something to our constitution in Canada so that we can ratify these conventions in our federal state, I hope this will be done. The other course we urge is to increase our contribution to the I.L.O.'s technical assistance program and thus play a really active part in