

The Address—Mr. Hogan

● (1550)

The recognition of the new international economic order and the development of a comprehensive national population policy are urgent steps to take if Canada is to meet the desire of the new Secretary of State for External Affairs to "reduce economic disparities in the world." It is time to replace band-aids with structural solutions. The United Nations World Food Conference in Rome, in November, is the place to demonstrate this new approach. Emergency food aid by Canada is necessary, but it will not be enough. The food problem does not stand alone. Measures to resolve famine must be situated within a total strategy of development. I appeal to the new minister, on behalf of those millions who see in Canada a sign of hope, to give this new leadership.

Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my first reaction in looking at the House of Commons today is to see a combination of the old church and the new church. I see the old church in terms of the stained glass windows, and the new church in terms of the many empty pews that are evident.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hogan: I think the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Roche) is a really good preacher. We must get to know one another better. I think the members of the House, regardless of political persuasions, would want to wish my predecessor, Donald MacInnis, the best of health and success in his retirement.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hogan: As a member of a social democratic party, I would be remiss if I did not mention, with much respect, that great Canadian who represented the old Cape Breton South constituency as a CCF'er for many years, Mr. Clarie Gillis.

In listening to, reading over and considering the contents of the Speech from the Throne, I came up with the following observations for the consideration of the House. I first want to speak on the international financial crisis as it pertains to Canadian leadership. I find the throne speech, even given its traditional time limits, very deficient in not stressing for us members of the Commons and for all the Canadian people the serious international financial crisis which is presently upon us. It is true that there is a line in the speech about balance of payments problems and the rapid accumulation of large currency reserves by a few countries, but that reference scarcely brings out the urgency of the situation.

The combined monetary reserves of the importing countries at the end of 1973 aggregated less than \$150 billion. An increased cost of oil by the OPEC countries suggested for January 1, based on inflation on their imported goods at that time, could lead to losses of reserves in the realm of \$7 billion a month. This haemorrhage of reserves at that rate could quickly lead to an anaemic and mortally wounded international economy.

Because of the extremely serious implication of this still evolving confrontation between the oil producing and oil consuming nations, it seems that Canada as an important

[Mr. Roche.]

middle power should have long ago shown leadership by initiating attempts to get these countries together. If we had tried to play a role in creating a conciliatory environment, it might have avoided the harsh and threatening words exchanged by Mr. Kissinger, President Ford and some of the Arab leaders only last week on this issue.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hogan: As a new member, I may be revealing an innocent naiveté, but it surely looks as if Canada missed a chance to play a limited but crucial conciliatory role on this matter of international oil producers versus consumers confrontation, fully more important to the world in the long run than helping to set up a Cyprus peace force. Even at home we have witnessed the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) in a worth while defence of the need of the agricultural producers receiving a just price, and the necessity of marketing boards helping them do this, going too far and attempting to exclude consumer representation from any producer marketing boards, and thus indirectly promoting an increasing conflict between producers and consumers. Thus, as I see it, we as a nation have failed to help bring together the oil producers and consumers at an international level, and at the national and domestic level there has been a tendency to at least indirectly encourage a confrontation between farmer-producers and Canadian consumers.

Surely we have enough conflicts in our society between races, as we witnessed recently outside these walls, as well as linguistic, regional and labour-management conflicts and we do not need a minister of the Crown, with chauvinistic departmentalism, indirectly encouraging, even if inadvertently, another one. This type of talking and thinking seems even more inexcusable when we realize that, given increasing world-wide demands for food because of growing population and rising expectations, coupled with decreasing, scarce food supplies, the situation likely will require that this government will need nation-wide support in a serious attempt to revamp and overhaul much of our present agricultural policy. That is, of course, if Canada is to play an important role, not only in satisfying our own national needs but the needs of the developing countries for at least the next 25 years. I say this recognizing, of course, that in the longer run these countries will have to gradually learn to feed themselves.

I am confident that the world has the capacity to increase food production more rapidly than the growth of population, as it has in the past two decades. I am, of course, not an agricultural economist, but this view is expressed in the preliminary assessment of the world food situation, present and future, which was prepared for the World Food Conference to be held in Rome in November. Canada ought to have, for humanitarian reasons as well as for reasons of national interest, an increasingly larger stake in helping, through its food policy and other general trade and aid policy, the forgotten billions of human beings who live in the third world.

● (1600)

In mentioning the need for international aid, many hon. members probably saw the statement by President Perez of Venezuela in response to President Ford's recent plea