

The Address—Mr. Brewin

you call it left wing or what label you attach, it is the substance and specifics that are important. I want to discuss some of them.

May I first say that I detect in the Prime Minister's statement to the Canadian Jewish Congress in Toronto On June 16 of this year, and in his address at Duke University on May 12, a substantial and, in my view, very welcome shift in Canadian foreign policy.

In the Toronto address the Prime Minister emphasized that Canada is not an island. He spoke of our dependence on others and their dependence on us. He stated he hopes Canada's presence in the world will be judged by its humanism and pursuit of social justice. He stated that Canada's foreign policy would be meaningless if this were not carried out as it would not reflect the character of Canadians.

The Prime Minister went on to quote John Donne, the Elizabethan poet, who wrote "Every man's death diminishes me". The Prime Minister added that this quotation should guide our foreign policy as it guides our domestic policy. Compassion, the Prime Minister stated, must have no geographic focus nor must our geographic efforts have geographic limitations. With these words I entirely agree. What we need is to put them into practice.

In the Duke University address the Prime Minister spoke of a fairness in the political and economic relations between developed and developing nations. He said fairness must be a reality and not a theoretical concept. He spoke of the developed nations having the knowledge and means to alter the course of human destiny. We have, indeed, a responsibility universal in concept and planetary in scope. Such responsibility, he went on, requires an exhibition of maturity and such maturity requires new values. Once again, I could not agree more. Once again I repeat it remains to put this excellent rhetoric into practice.

It seems the government is prepared to discard the priorities revealed in the white paper on foreign policy a few years ago. However, it may not be willing to admit it is doing so. In the white paper priority is clearly assigned to economic growth. Indeed, this priority was practised.

May I give as an example Canadian trade policy in respect to South Africa where we continue the Commonwealth preference although South Africa, by reason of apartheid, long ago left the Commonwealth. We helped to build up the illegal regime in Namibia and from time to time we gave effective economic help to the then Portuguese colonial regimes. I am glad to note from his speech to the Canadian Jewish Congress that the Prime Minister repeating the various objectives governing Canadian foreign policy, puts economic growth at the end of the list. He said that from time to time pursuit of one or the other of these objectives must be given preference over all others.

We must now have, in practice as well as in theory, priority on peace, on security and on social justice, on the pursuit of humanism and compassion. Economic growth is all very well but it cannot be the guide to foreign policies of Canada at this time. A change in priorities will also require a shift in policies.

The statement attributed to Mr. Head, even if misquoted, represents what is essential if the shift in priorities is

[Mr. Brewin.]

to take place. I quarrel in no way with the Prime Minister's rhetoric. I only ask that it be demonstrated in practice.

A great opportunity for demonstrating the type of leadership which Canada can give lies ahead in the U.N. World Food Conference which is to take place in Rome in November. For generations many people throughout the world have suffered from malnutrition and, indeed, starvation. What are described as conservative estimates, prepared for the Rome Conference by officials of the United Nations, state that 460 million people, one-eighth of the world's population, suffer from chronic hunger and malnutrition. Recently the true proportions of the disaster facing the world have become clear.

Dr. Norman Borlaug, Director of the International Wheat, Maize Improvement Centre and a Nobel Peace Prize winner, said that as late as the spring of 1972 the world felt very complacent about agriculture. There appeared then to be adequate food reserves. But drought and poor monsoons resulted in the disappearance of surplus stocks of grain and in the very substantial increase in food prices throughout the world. With the disappearance of food grain reserves the whole world food situation, he said, has become precarious. If a major drought occurs in the world now or a crop failure in any of the large grain producing areas of the world, tens of millions could die in an international disaster and little could be done to prevent it.

Distinguished scientists recently presented a declaration to the U.N. Secretary General. In reply Mr. Waldheim said, and I quote:

The Declaration addresses itself primarily to the dramatic depletion of available food reserves and the shortfall in world food production. There is no more immediate task than that of rescuing the world from a situation which for many has always been precarious and is now even more hazardous. Short term measures, while essential, must not be allowed to become palliatives, for the coming years will increase our vulnerability. . . . Virtually in no other area is it more pressing than in the one to which your Declaration addresses itself, the need to assure that the men, women and children of Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas, whatever their origin, their religion, their political philosophy, their age, their social condition, have the basic food which is the one essential, undebatable precondition of a life of dignity and decency. Without an assured supply, all our aspirations for peace, for social justice, for growth and creativity, both as individuals and as nations, lose their meaning and take on a hollow ring.

In my view in those words the Secretary General has put his finger on the major problem facing the world today, the simple problem of finding enough food to feed the people of the world.

What then must be done? There are two choices, either to increase the land area under cultivation or increase the yield of production per acre of land already under cultivation, particularly in the so-called developing world. What is needed is research, much of which must be done locally. What is needed above all is an increased production of chemical fertilizers which are in dangerously short supply.

The difficult task of increasing food production has been immensely enlarged through the present energy crisis, resulting in higher prices for petroleum products and chemical fertilizers.

We sometimes tend to claim that some of the developing countries are responsible for their own misfortunes. This does not do justice to the facts. Take the case of India, for