

Business of Supply

this area of international affairs, as well as enabling them to question representatives of the government.

It is true this House is most often and very appropriately concerned with strictly Canadian or internal affairs which fall directly under our jurisdiction. It is important, however, that from time to time we take a look at the position of Canada in the world. It is becoming increasingly obvious that the welfare of all Canadians depends more and more on world conditions. We have been assailed by a series of gloomy prophecies, mostly by scientists and other learned writers. We have had discussion of crisis piled upon crisis. I believe the insecurity and fear that dominate the lives of many people throughout the world, including people in Canada, are to a very real extent the result of external forces and instability in the world.

The problem with regard to food, starvation, and malnutrition, population, threatened nuclear destruction, energy, the environment, and the growing gap between the relative affluence of the developed world and the growing destitution of the rest of the world all demand action on a global scale. They cannot be solved by individual nations. They cannot be solved except by a process of international planning and the use of international agencies such as those around and associated with the United Nations. All these things demand a radical approach to international affairs.

International affairs once were largely a matter of individual relations between separate sovereign states. But if disaster is to be averted there is a need for interdependent international action. Sometimes we in the western world, and particularly in North America, take a complacent view. For example, I shall quote a gentleman probably not often quoted nowadays, former president Nixon, who in 1973 said in his international economic report that by any quantitative measure the post World War II era has been the most successful in economic history. I suggest that he should have consulted his former colleague, World Bank President McNamara, who said that the poor remain entrapped in conditions of deprivation which fall below any rational definition of human decency.

Mr. McNamara went on to say that two thirds of the people of the undeveloped world, 1.3 billion, are farmers, but that some 90 million of them earn less than \$100 per year. He concluded by saying that we are talking about hundreds of millions of desperately poor people throughout the whole developing world. We are talking about 40 per cent of the entire population. Development simply is not reaching these people in any decisive degree.

My colleague, the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands, will deal with one threat to the peace and security of the world in which Canada is particularly involved. I refer to the danger of nuclear proliferation through the sale of reactors, ostensibly for peaceful purposes, which could be diverted to the production of nuclear bombs. I wish to deal primarily with the demands and needs in respect of world development and Canada's part in this development. I also wish to refer to one or two other incidental subjects.

The Pearson Commission report known as "Partners in Development", which commission was headed by a former prime minister of Canada, referred to the widening gap

[Mr. Brewin.]

between developed and developing countries as a central issue of our times. Pope Paul put the matter more succinctly. He said that development is the new name for peace.

Canada has long proclaimed social justice as one of its main objectives. Indeed the Canadian aid program administered by CIDA has grown from the one-quarter billion dollar mark to half a billion dollars within the five years following 1968. Aid has become a major element in Canada's foreign policy. In 1970 the Department of External Affairs issued a paper on international affairs and foreign policy for Canada. This paper said that development assistance is an important and integral part of Canada's external relations particularly with the developing countries. I would like to say that despite this general commitment it would be quite wrong to assume that all is well with Canada's program of development.

● (1520)

I for one do not wish to undermine the many valuable aid projects financed or administered by CIDA, with some of which I have been personally familiar. In particular I support the programs that have been built up in co-operation with what are called non-governmental organizations which are experienced in the problems of the developing nations.

There is, however, a grave lack of adequate supervision by parliament, and a consequent lack of understanding of Canada's aid programs in the public mind. In addition, there are some aspects of our aid program that are inadequate and urgently require review, and there are other aspects of the whole problem that are even more important than aid. I refer to the question of trade with the developing world. This surpasses in its importance to the developing countries all questions of aid, and Canada's record in this field is not very satisfactory.

Our percentage of exports and imports to and from the developing world is in the area of 8 per cent. The American percentages are 33 per cent for export and 26 per cent for imports. Over-all, the proportions for the developed countries are 23 per cent and 22 per cent. So Canada lags far behind the other developed countries in the extent of its trade with the developing world.

There are very grave questions within the program as to whether the tied aid, which comprises a great part of our bilateral aid program, is not more adjusted to the benefit of Canadian business than to meet the needs of the developing countries. Every bit of aid that is tied is less beneficial to the countries it is supposed to develop. There are very grave issues as to whether the loans which are extended to developing countries as part of the aid program and are required to be paid back—sometimes with interest, sometimes with easy terms—do not nevertheless impose an intolerable burden on these countries so that their debt service eats up the foreign exchange which they so urgently need for their development.

There are questions as to whether or not aid is reinforcing the power structures in developing countries rather than reaching those in need. An example of this is the Dominican Development Foundation, a subject which I cannot go into at length at present and which I would ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs to look into.