

Fishing for Solutions to Poverty

First Political wasted no time Thursday morning moving straight into debate on new resolutions. After finishing the third resolution last night, they discussed new ones right away.

Debate concerning the first resolution, which dealt with overfishing in the Americas, took about 50 minutes. A common objection was that the clauses did not address specific ways to curtail overfishing. An amendment suggested the establishment of fishing quotas to curb this practice (Amendment 1).

With an even number of pro and con speeches, the debate continued. When asked about the importance of overfishing, the delegate from Switzerland said, "It is not a very well-known issue compared to others and . . . the world needs to know about it." The delegate from Colombia disagreed, stating that, "While overfishing is an important problem, there are much bigger issues that need to be dealt with, such as poverty, economic issues, and drug trafficking." The resolution failed with 20 pro and 22 con.

Debate about the second resolution, which dealt with poverty in Nicaragua, lasted over an hour. Many countries argued that the resolution was too focused on Nicaragua and that it was not within the power of this committee. An amendment was added, recommending that the second operative clause be struck and replaced. In its place, an organization that would urge other countries to donate and import goods to Nicaragua should be created (Amendment 2).

The delegate from Guatemala said of the resolution, "It is not in this committee's jurisdiction, and other countries already donate

money to many poverty-stricken countries, so there is no need to add an amendment. . . the strategy of building up Nicaragua would take over 30 years and would do nothing for this resolution." After numerous speeches, the resolution passed with 24 pro and 18 con.

First Political's morning finished with the passing of these two resolutions and a third one in the works. The committee will continue after lunch, with the potential for more to come.

By: First Political
Reporter