

Adjournment Debate

important to develop a more modern, more rigorous and more complete framework to provide true protection for depositors. We are truly looking for honest consultation and I urge my Hon. friend to participate in a positive manner in this consultation. Draft legislation will come out of these consultations, progress will be made, and I am certain that we shall be able to adopt without undue delay effective legislation in this area.

We shall also be consulting the provincial governments. Hon. Members are aware that the federal Government must share with the provinces the responsibility of protecting consumers in their dealings with financial institutions. We shall continue to work in this sector, and our Government has already proved that it can get along with the provinces to ensure an effective and complete protection through regulations which must also be both effective and complete.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we must act without delay. That is why consultations are under way and why I urge my Hon. friend to participate actively in this process.

[English]

EXTERNAL AID—SUDAN—FOOD CRISIS—CANADIAN ASSISTANCE

Mr. Reg Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, on March 8, as reported at page 2817 of *Hansard*, I asked the following question of the Minister for External Relations (Mrs. Vézina):

Will the Minister advise the House what response the Government will make to the food crisis in the Sudan, exacerbated as it has been by so many Ethiopian refugees? In particular, will the Minister tell us if the Government intends to appoint any full-time officials to protect such a Sudan relief program from the kind of abuse suffered in Ethiopia?

● (1830)

My concern in raising that question was to direct attention to the emergency in the Sudan created to a large degree by the ingress of now 850,000 Ethiopian refugees, many of them driven there by the severe conditions imposed, not simply by the natural developments such as drought and erosion of arable soil, but by the policies of the Ethiopian Government in maintaining civil war in such a way that innocent people in the northern part of the country have been cut off from relief opportunities. The same Government refused to accept western proposals that there be a temporary truce to permit the delivery of food supplies that would bring life and health to so many.

It was for those reasons that I focused attention on our need to provide an adequate monitoring service to make sure that Canadian relief, so generously provided both by Governments and individual Canadians, would be delivered to the people who need it most.

In the Minister's answer, there was a reference to the MacDonald report, expected at the time of the answer since March 8, submitted to the standing committee and, through it, to Parliament. I am very glad the emphasis in the MacDonald report was a recognition of the need for increased monitoring services if we are to have a program that will be fully effective

and as well a program that will enjoy full credibility among members of the Canadian public.

It is shocking, is it not, to recognize that since I asked this question, the Ethiopian Government's army has wiped out an entire relief centre, sending over 50,000 refugees out on their own, and then within less than a week, grabbing the attention of the West, the Ethiopian Government said that it was all a mistake and really, as a Government, it did not intend that that should be done.

When that kind of possibility is before us, we need to be adequately represented in the field so that we can assure ourselves and our people that our objectives are being achieved. Since this question was raised we have had a complete overturn of the Sudanese Government. We may hope it will be a turn for the better. Certainly we will not be surprised if there is an extended period of instability in the Sudan before anything like a social order is enjoyed. Equally then, we need monitoring of whatever relief programs we have in place there.

I would like to submit that if Canada is to have a long-term commitment for development as well as relief in Ethiopia and in the Sudan, the need for adequate surveillance by Canadian authorities is all the more evident. No one can say that we will undertake such a commitment, but neither can we deny its possibility. The need is great. The desire on the part of many members of the public is greater still. It may well be that this Government may make a quite proper and understandable decision to stay in Ethiopia and in the Sudan over the long run. If we are to do that and to enter into a full scale development program there, we will have to ensure greater surveillance than we have in the past.

I recognize some of the difficulties. I certainly appreciate the reluctance of some officials to undertake what they see as high cost appointments, but we can be sure that there are much lower cost alternatives, partly through the services of NGO's which are open to contract arrangements. I am glad that since this discussion began in mid-winter there is a greater enthusiasm on the part of elements of our government Departments to undertake such contractual arrangements, but we can make much more use as well of those individual Canadians, young, middle-aged, and old, who are available for this kind of humanitarian service at low cost, sometimes at no cost.

● (1835)

I hope the Government recognizes fully the need for adequate monitoring, which the MacDonald report emphasized, and will make every effort to use whatever services and talents Canadians can put at its disposal in ensuring that our humanitarian and social objectives are effective in the field.

Mr. Stewart McInnes (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I wish to acknowledge the genuine interest of the Hon. Member for Scarborough West (Mr. Stackhouse) and his contribution on behalf of the famine victims about whom he so eloquently and relevantly spoke.