

Routine Proceedings

All members have the right to speak during the period called Statements by Members each day, a full 60-second statement. Further, members have the right to ask questions in Question Period. After that question is asked, under the rules members can go further. They can ask to be allowed to speak on the adjournment debate and, when their turn comes up, that is a seven-minute speech to which the government responds for three minutes. There are other ways—and I have not precluded some other ways as well—in which these matters can be raised.

Unfortunately for the hon. member for Shefford, I am bound by the rule. I see the hon. member is indicating some understanding of that. His route, I think, is discussions with his colleagues and, if there is to be a change, then of course I would abide by it.

It has been brought to my attention that there was a request by the hon. member for Shefford to respond. Is there unanimous consent to allow the hon. member for Shefford to respond?

An hon. member: No.

Mr. Speaker: I have to advise the hon. member there is not unanimous consent.

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INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE

20TH ANNIVERSARY

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, just 20 years ago, in a remarkable act of foresight and goodwill, this House gave unanimous approval to legislation creating the International Development Research Centre. In the two decades since, the IDRC has attracted the interest and the commendation of the world as it has offered forms of innovative and effective assistance to the scientific communities of the developing countries.

This week, the centre's International Board of Governors, composed of distinguished scientists and development experts from 11 different countries, is meeting in Ottawa for one of its regular meetings. As they do so, these men and women have every reason to view with pride IDRC's accomplishments. It is a pride that I know is shared by all hon. members of this House.

[*Translation*]

IDRC's statutory mandate is to support development-related research. Since its creation, the Centre has chosen to do so by encouraging and funding scientific research undertaken and managed by developing country scientists. In this way the research is relevant to needs, and the competence and experience of local scientists is deepened and enhanced. IDRC-funded research has led to increased supplies of food and water, improved education and health services, more reliable data for decision-makers, and better access to information.

[*English*]

The success of the centre has attracted the commendation of committees of this House, even of the Auditor General of Canada, and of numerous international observers. Its developmental data bases are recognized as among the most diverse and valuable of any in the world. They include, for example, all of the original archives of the Brundtland commission.

• (1150)

The accomplishments of IDRC, Sir, are a credit to Canada. To the board and to the staff of this unique international organization, I extend, I am sure on behalf of all members of the House, thanks and best wishes for continued success as the IDRC enters its third decade.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today in support of the words of the right hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs in commending the International Development Research Centre for 20 years of very successful development work.

I find it unfortunate that Canadians are not as familiar as I think they should be with the very successful work of the International Development Research Centre, for if we go around the world into the most remote areas of Third World countries we will find people talking about the accomplishments of the International Development Research Centre.

Some 15 to 20 years ago the populations of Canada and developed nations around the world were concerned about famine and hunger in India; but few Canadians realize what an important contribution the International Development Research Centre has made to the fact that no longer do we hear about famine in India despite severe droughts that it has undergone. This is because of the significant and important research that the Interna-