

of growing concern. Since education falls within the jurisdiction of the Provinces, it becomes the responsibility of institutions within provincial Governments to set fees for foreign students.

At the federal level there is a growing sensitivity to the hardships suffered by non-scholarship foreign students. The federal Government does provide support to some developing countries through the Canadian International Development Agency. The CIDA plan sponsors between 700 and 800 students per year for studies related to ongoing development projects. Through the Commonwealth Scholarship Program, CIDA also sponsors another 300 students per year, 70 per cent of whom are from developing countries. These students are exempt from the foreign student fee differential in all Provinces but Alberta and Quebec.

● (1410)

The benefits to Canadians from such a practice is the establishment of good will with developing countries. It also exposes Canadian students to citizens from around the world, providing cultural and idea enrichment. Since Canada's official development assistance program is constrained by limited resources to support only those students whose studies are related to their country's developmental priorities, it is requested that the Government continue in its effort to negotiate lower fees for foreign students applying to Canadian universities.

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### INCOME TAX

#### DELAY IN REFUNDS TO TAXPAYERS

**Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca):** Madam Speaker, after analyzing over 800 inquiries from my constituents regarding long delays in receiving their income tax refunds, it has become clear that those refunds which are in excess of \$1,000 have been deliberately recycled a number of times for no apparent reason but to delay the refunds. This has contributed to a delay in the processing of these same income tax returns of anywhere from five to seven months. These refunds belong to individuals who formerly were working in high paying jobs in construction and mining operations, who have since been laid off. The delay in issuing these refund cheques has in many cases caused people who are unemployed and have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits to borrow, or seek welfare.

It appears that this cash starved Government was and still is deliberately delaying the processing of the larger tax refunds to assist in its cash flow problems. This sleazy practice must stop immediately and must be severely condemned by this House of Commons.

### S.O. 21

### SOCIAL SERVICES

#### NEED FOR SOUP KITCHENS TO FEED THE HUNGRY

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Madam Speaker, hunger in Canada has become a major problem. In major urban areas across the country, from Halifax to Vancouver, volunteer agencies have set up soup kitchens to provide thousands of hungry and hard-pressed Canadians with the semblance of a meal. Facilities for meals and shelter have been overtaxed for the past two years and little relief is in sight. It is indicative that the people who use these services are not the alcoholics and derelicts of past years, they are the young unemployed, middle class men and women and their families, and the transients who criss-cross the country with their families in tow, looking for work and shelter.

The scale of the hunger we are seeing reflects a major breakdown in our social assistance network. It is a cause for national shame. It harks back to conditions which existed in the 1930s, conditions that most of us hoped we had left behind years ago. In the United States, where a similar problem of hunger exists, President Reagan has appointed a national task force to study the problem.

Here in Canada, I think it is time to ask what our Government is doing about this problem who is affected; what are the dimensions of the problem; and what is the situation in the rural and under-developed regions? The federal Government bears a major part of the blame for the present depression and must deal with its effects. Hunger and malnutrition are not necessary in such a rich and productive country as ours.

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**Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North):** Madam Speaker, as a result of a one month delay in mailing blank returns and a two month delay for computer reprogramming, 1982 income tax refunds have been badly delayed. Last week I received a call from a constituent who filed her income tax return in January and still had not received her refund cheque. The bank was threatening to seize her car, and she was going to lose her job.

I have hard evidence to suggest that the delay in receiving an income tax refund may have been a major factor in the commission of a serious crime in my riding.

It is clearly Liberal Party policy to delay income tax refunds in order to solve the Government's cash flow problems.

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame.

**Mr. Lewis:** I call on the Government, I call on the Liberal Party, to reverse that policy in order that the Canadian taxpayers, who are supporting this bunch, will receive their income tax refunds on time.