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attempting to cover up on this through his \$200,000 donation, which has nothing whatever to do with increasing the capacity of voluntary organizations to increase their own incentives to raise money.

Therefore, I believe that the committee, as imperfect as it will be for the reasons I have outlined, must get at the question of advocacy. Too many organizations today are impeded from reflecting their own expertise and contribution to policy formulation in this country. They are inhibited by a Revenue Canada which has been following an old fashioned definition of charitable activities which precludes any sort of political activity, when we know that today political activity has many diverse elements to it.

● (1240)

I submit that it is wholly appropriate for a voluntary organization with tax status to advocate policies to the Government of Canada and to submit briefs and write letters to Members of Parliament. It is appropriate for them to take those steps which are necessary to put forward their belief in the construction of public policy that meets the needs of society, as distinct from just coping with the problems with more band-aids. Of course, we are not in favour of charitable organizations conducting any activities which are criminal in nature. The law of Canada which permits you and me to demonstrate should be applied to charitable organizations too. They cannot break the law, just as you and I cannot break the law.

Charitable organizations cannot support any political Party or any candidate for office at the time of an election. That should be obvious. Voluntary organizations which have tax status cannot be involved in the political electioneering process which brings Members to this House. They certainly cannot be involved in activities which will benefit the members of the charities or boards in areas having to do with conflict of interest. Those are questions for separate consideration. However, there is a whole field of activity which I submit is legitimate. I hope that the committee will examine this field of legitimate expression of concern about existing policies and the advocacy of new ones.

In the few moments I have left, Sir, I speak about the international side of voluntary organizations. I have had the experience of travelling around the world studying Canadian non-governmental organizations engaged in development projects. There are many such Canadian organizations. Dollar for dollar, they are doing the best human work of serving and delivering development projects at the community level in health, education and marketing services that I have seen in fairly extensive studies of Canada's foreign aid program around the world. I am in no sense diminishing the bilateral projects that build infrastructure. I am not speaking against the major multilateral projects of the international financial institutions, the United Nations systems programs, the UNDP and Unicef, that provide relief and development on massive scales. I urge the Government of Canada to maintain a proper

balance in its aid projects to keep the multilateral ones at an even pace with the bilateral.

There is a special area called Special Programs into which voluntary organizations come. I have been in 17 developing countries in the last five years studying this question quite extensively. It is my belief that on a dollar for dollar basis there is no better return to the Canadian taxpayer than from that money which is spent by voluntary organizations at the local level of human services to which I refer.

Last year the people of Canada, even in a time of economic recession, in supporting voluntary organizations working in the international field, provided \$150 million. Those are official figures. There used to be a program called CIDA's Matching Program through which CIDA would match donations dollar for dollar. Yet last year, by CIDA's own figures, it matched only \$133 million. It is my submission to you today that the Government of Canada is responding inadequately through the CIDA Special Programs Branch to the outpouring of support by the Canadian people for the voluntary organizations. I would like to see something done about that.

My colleague, the Hon. Member for Erie (Mr. Fretz) and I were members of the Parliamentary Committee on North South Relations. That committee made about 38 recommendations following an 18 month study. The very first recommendation was lifted out into a special position in our report, which was filed in this House under the chairmanship of the Hon. Member for Gloucester (Mr. Breau) in the fall of 1981. We lifted it into a special place to show that our first recommendation was for increased development education in our country. This was not done so that there would be an advertising program for government programs. We were not thinking about that at all. We were thinking about the need to help the Canadian people under the diversities of development today and about why Canada needs to participate fully. There is a double track need. One might call it the humanitarian need. We will not be able to hold our heads up in the world today if we dare to reduce the elementary programs which we have. We are still only contributing .48 per cent of our GNP. That is a long way from the .7 per cent which the Government has pledged to reach by 1990.

The second track of development education would help Canadians to understand that there is a return to Canada for it. In this year, official development assistance in the Estimates before the House is going up to \$2.1 billion. We have exceeded \$2 billion for the first time. Of that money spent, \$1 billion is returned to the Canadian economy through the purchase of goods and services and other ways through which aid is dispensed. Right across the board, including bilateral, multilateral and special programs, there is a \$1 return for every \$2 that the Canadian Government spends. That is an important fact for Canadians to understand.

I submit, Sir, that Canadians do not yet understand that there is a return to Canada from our involvement in international development. More particularly, in this time of crises in our country, of which we certainly have several, the crises which have impacted on the developing countries as a result of