

Oral Questions

I might add that those 11 groups already receive \$3 million of funding from the Secretary of State, over \$2 million in core funding and almost \$1 million in project funding.

It became an administrative decision. We fund thousands and thousands of projects, all of them very useful in promoting equality and social justice.

We cannot possibly fund everything that we are requested to fund. Unfortunately, this was one of those occasions where we had to say no. We felt it would still proceed within the \$3 million already made available.

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, saying no at five o'clock Friday to groups that have been promised additional funding for special projects when their general funding was cut seems to me quite irresponsible and does not show a commitment to employment equity on the part of this government.

There were two emergency resolutions which I understand were put forward in addition to the general resolutions that will come later. Will the government ensure that the planning for PS-2000, which will include consultation with employment equity target groups so that the hiring will be mandatory in the restructuring of the Public Service and be mandatory to include employment equity?

Also, will the minister investigate complaints that aboriginal employees in the Public Service are experiencing harassment?

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I am very actively looking at this particular file concerning civil service 2000, and particularly the area of equity.

We have received reports from 10 different task forces. We have put out a preliminary report that is being looked at by the unions, and I can guarantee her that I am very preoccupied with this particular aspect. Certainly, I will be able to report on it shortly.

* * *

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for External Relations.

As was mentioned before, this weekend at the summit for children the Prime Minister said that political will is a decisive factor in the war on child poverty. In contrast, the United Nations children's fund, one of the main organizers of the summit calculates that an additional \$2.5 billion a year is needed to save millions of children's lives over the next decade.

I would like to know what additional financial resources this government is going to contribute to meet UNICEF goals for the next decade. Children cannot eat political will.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Monique Landry (Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker, the government acknowledges that the future of our planet depends on the children of the world. My colleague would know that for years now CIDA programs have given priority to the health and elementary level education of mothers and children. Over the last five years we have directly and indirectly allocated \$1.8 billion to children.

My colleague probably knows that in 1970 only 5 per cent of children had been vaccinated against the six basic diseases and that the current rate is up to 70 to 75 per cent. Canada did more than its share by allocating \$140 million in the past few years.

Surely my colleague will admit that this is a firm government commitment. We have programs and will continue to implement them while giving priority to Third World children.

• (1500)

[*English*]

Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

We begin National Family Week, but the sad reality is that hundreds of thousands of children and their families in the country experience deplorable poverty and the mortality rate among our native Canadians is twice the national average.

The government is able to give us irreversible dates for such things as GST legislation implementation and the Meech Lake Accord. Is the government ready to announce today a specific date for the ratification of the