

CIDA

ment. But it is itself under attack from the developed countries because the developing nations, constituting a majority, are flexing their muscles over such issues as access to their natural resources, the rights of foreign investors, aid and trade, inflation and monetary matters. Canada's voice and vote are needed in support of the U.N.'s programs for rapid economic and social development. I want Canada to move into what is now a leadership vacuum at the U.N.

We can do that by starting to shift right away from placing so much reliance on bilateral and multilateral aid in our CIDA budget. Bilateral aid now occupies 60 per cent of the budget; and 80 per cent of that has to be spent in Canada itself. I suggest as an expression of foreign aid it is a fraudulent one, with so much money tied up and being spent in Canada.

I want CIDA, as we start to move outwards, to give more attention to non-government organizations in this country, principally the Canadian Council for International Co-operation, which is an umbrella group bringing together 100 non-governmental organizations. These non-governmental groups are helping to educate Canadians. Their educational programs for development are themselves helping to change public opinion in this country, yet they find themselves short changed. CIDA is so badly managed that it does not even pay its bills promptly to the Canadian Council for International Co-operation, which puts that body, a non-governmental organization dependent on CIDA for its existence, in a bind. That is a very small amount of money relative to the huge amount that CIDA has. That is an example of the kind of management I am talking about.

Finally, I want to support what was said earlier about having CIDA made responsible to parliament by creating an associate minister to the minister of external affairs. It is abundantly clear to me that the minister has so many things to occupy himself in his portfolio that we should take the lead from other countries in the developed world which have given ministerial status to international assistance programs. I say that because CIDA would then be directly responsible to parliament, and the minister would have an opportunity of producing a comprehensive policy that would embrace all of our policies relating to trade, international finance, the United Nations and development aid. Then we would see CIDA in its rightful place in respect of providing international assistance through one component. I think this agency should come within the responsibility of one minister.

● (2050)

I should like to know when we get to the committee why we are spending \$23 million on administration alone. If we had one minister responsible for international assistance, bringing all these aid programs together, we would be making a tremendous advance. If that is the result of this debate we are having tonight, then this debate will have proven eminently worthwhile.

Mr. Hugh A. Anderson (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I should like to refer to the remarks of the last speaker, the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Roche), who was very displeased with the speech of the minister this afternoon. I can certainly understand why he is dis-

pleased, because in my opinion the minister completely tore apart every criticism of opposition members, threw them in the waste paper basket, and caused a great deal of embarrassment to certain hon. members. I can understand why the opposition is unhappy with the points he made, because he showed up their criticisms for exactly what they are, half-baked and half thought-out, just as is this motion which should not have been brought on in the first place.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Anderson: When I hear the suggestion of secrecy I am reminded of two fellows who were flying over Canada taking pictures of important installations, and one chap turned to the other and asked, "What will we do with the rest of the film?" When I hear the reference to secrecy I think perhaps we should start a new branch of secrecy in the Department of Agriculture, and call it Gene Whelan's closet. Perhaps we should have a department of secrecy in CIDA. This whole matter brings to my mind the cloak and dagger.

We are talking about an agency which is accused of operating behind closed doors. When a government agency that operates as a department of the government of Canada, that is subject to the same public and parliamentary scrutiny as other departments, is described as a secret operation then that is far from the truth. I think hon. members opposite would have been much better off had they discussed the operations of the agency rather than discuss how we hide things from the opposition.

CIDA was established in 1968, by government order in council, to administer the international development assistance program. Its chief officer has the status of a deputy minister who reports directly to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who in turn is responsible for the activities of CIDA. In other words, this is not some clandestine operation operating behind closed doors with dim lights.

This agency is responsible to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen), who sits in this House and is open to questioning about his department at any time during the question period. He is also subject to written questions. The funds for CIDA are voted by parliament each year after the estimates are considered by the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence. I suggest we have an operation in respect of which questions can be asked not only of the minister but of the director of CIDA, both of whom must respond in committee. Surely this is not a secret situation when the committee has the minister and the director available to it.

Prior to being presented to parliament the estimates of CIDA are approved by the cabinet, acting on the advice of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who in turn is advised by the president of CIDA, who in turn consults with the minister on significant matters of policy regarding the Canadian International Development Association. On the board of that association we have a deputy minister of the Department of Finance, a deputy minister of External Affairs, a deputy minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Secretary of the Treasury Board, as well as the Governor of the Bank of Canada and the President of the International Development Research Service.

[Mr. Roche.]