

CIDA

And we are coming to an interesting section. When one reads an annual report, it looks fine, it reads well, it is said and I quote:

During the year, 26 Canadian advisers worked at designing, writing and printing textbooks and workbooks required for the country's educational television system. To the \$1.7 million it committed in 1971, CIDA added a grant of \$3.2 million.

Mr. Speaker, members of the House who go through that report and come to that educational television project do not learn any more than what is said in that short sentence. We spent about \$5,000,000 a drop in the sea, but no member got more information on that little project that what is said in that short sentence.

On the basis of this information and of personal research—and I do not want to involve in any way any Canadian consultant abroad—I would like to make available to the House information that CIDA refuses to give us on this little project which is so briefly described in the annual report. In other words, the educational TV system for the Ivory Coast got a \$5 million grant. As I said earlier, it is a drop in the sea of the \$770 million available to this agency. The agreement is scheduled to end in 1975. And that is all we know. If one tries to find out more about this, one realizes that this is difficult, through normal channels, of course.

This project was started four years ago. For the information of the hon. members, I shall make a summary of the situation. This is interesting. The personnel amounts to 30 Canadian families approximately since Canadian consultants abroad have an average of three to four children. As far as field personnel is concerned there were six different coordinators over a four year period. These were Messrs. Jacques Gagnon, Jacob, Dufort, Beaulieu, Lalonde and Samson. Mr. Gagnon resigned. We should know why. Mr. Jacob was appointed temporarily, but his contract was not renewed. Another, Mr. Dufort, was repatriated or released by the embassy. What is the embassy or External Affairs doing in this business? Another, Mr. Beaulieu, was asked to resign and was expelled. Mr. Bigras, second secretary at the embassy, appointed Mr. Lalonde ad interim. And finally, CIDA appointed Mr. Samson.

Mr. Speaker, there were six coordinators in four years. In five months, four coordinators were put in charge of four different CIDA projects. They are Messrs. Benoît, Bossé, Desrosiers and Lemelin. The effect of the staff turnover is obviously very serious, because there is no continuity in the work of the various volunteers who are constantly being transferred from place to place and are always under great pressure from the Canadian embassy, the Department of External Affairs and CIDA. Therefore, the interrelation of administrative responsibilities becomes an acute problem.

Mr. Speaker, we also should know about the role played by the Canadian embassy in this project. It would be important. Who is the ambassador? What does he do?

An hon. Member: Just look in the book.

Mr. Fortin: It is not written in it.

Why does the embassy have so much power? Two positions being vacant, those of cameraman and coordinator, Mr. Lalonde has been appointed production manager and

[Mr. Fortin.]

not coordinator; however, he signs his letters as acting coordinator. Where is the truth?

Mr. Speaker, it was a printing plant. So, a four-color rotary press was ordered through this project at a cost of \$250,000. But the worst of it is that the press has not arrived yet while two experts have been waiting one of them for two years, Mr. Bossé and the other one for one year, Mr. Dion.

I recently put a question in this House concerning paper. A printing plant is good but, by gosh, it needs paper! This government passed a contract with the E. B. Eddy Company according to a press report in *Le Droit* of February 27, 1974. I quote:

The Minister of Supply and Services, Jean-Pierre Goyer announced the awarding of a \$1,449,538 contract to the E. B. Eddy Company in Hull.

This contract passed by the Canadian Commercial Corporation on behalf of the Canadian International Development Agency provides for the supply of 1,970 tons of paper of different grades to Zaïre (Equatorial Africa) by April 1974.

That paper has never arrived, Mr. Speaker. We should know exactly what happened to it. I wonder why members opposite talk so loudly? What do they have to hide?

Mr. Speaker, here is a good example. I have here a letter dated May 1st 1974, signed by Mr. Michel Verhas de Bouaké, Republic of Ivory Coast. This letter is accompanied by a petition signed by all Canadians overseas asking CIDA, the embassy and Canadian authorities to show leadership, to stop acting like fools and to make the necessary efforts so that this project be realized. Let us not forget Canadians overseas in our debate. It is a good thing, Mr. Speaker, to send \$707 million to developing countries. Those are financial resources. But we must not neglect the human resources we send to those countries, through CUSO, CESO or CIDA. Now, Mr. Speaker, our human resources happen to be there to cooperate with the locals but they do not get any directives or if they do, they get them all wrong.

I have before me a document dated April 29, 1974. I will not read it to you, but any member interested in consulting it will be extremely surprised at the content; it is signed by all the volunteers who claim: Please, help us work, give us some equipment; you have sent us here under contracts and we are ready to perform them; we are competent, we want to work, but we have nothing to do. We have a rotary press that prints in four colours, that is we do not have the machine, but the two employees, the two skilled operators.

● (1630)

Mr. Speaker, these are the points I wanted to make.

I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen), who is in the House, to have an inquiry made immediately and specifically on this particular project in order to find out how CIDA funds are appropriated. He will then understand why MPs have serious grievances against CIDA.

We do not wish to control CIDA nor dictate its policy. What we want is, first of all, that it be answerable to the House and that the minister give us the assurance that the funds allotted to this agency really serve the purposes for which they were appropriated.