

*Human Rights*

personal freedoms of a human being in this country, regardless of what institution a person is in due to age and infirmity. Such rights—elementary, basic—are not being honoured throughout Canada at this time, as our report shows.

• (1130)

We have made a beginning through that report, as other committees have made a beginning on behalf of other rights and in protest against other abuses. But we need to have an ongoing concern expressed by people who will be fully and wholeheartedly devoted to this cause, and this we will find in this proposed centre.

I am glad to say that, especially in view of the mandate that it has and the responsibility that it must exercise, this centre will be an independent corporation, it will receive statutory funding, increasing from \$1 million in its first year of operation to \$5 million in its fifth year. In subsequent years, financing will be provided through parliamentary appropriations.

The Government believes that this should be done on a multi-year basis, following parliamentary reviews every five years of the centre's operations. This will give assurance to Canadian and international partners of the independence and the stability of the centre, but at the same time the parliamentary reviews will ensure that the operations of the centre are consistent with the broad lines of Canadian foreign policy and the objectives of our development co-operation program.

You will note from the legislation that the centre's 13-person board of directors will include at least nine Canadians and three nationals of developing countries. Ten members will be appointed by Governor in Council. These in turn will select and appoint the members from developing countries. A selection committee has been established to make recommendations on the composition of the board. It comprises Mr. Gordon Fairweather, Chairman, formerly the Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, and at one time a distinguished Member of this House, and as well, Mr. Marc Brault, Mrs. Margaret Catley-Carlson, Mrs. Francine Fournier, Mr. Rene Lacoste, Dr. William Saywell and Mr. Justice Walter Tarnopolsky. It is expected that the committee will provide its recommendations early this fall.

The centre's primary focus will be on activities of benefit to developing countries. We readily believe that this is not only in the tradition of Canada but that the need for it has never been greater. When one surveys the human rights records of various countries throughout the world using for reference, for example, the human rights guide offered by the publication *The Economist*, it is clear that the human rights record in so many developing countries is a tragic and sorry sight. Part of the need of development is the development of a greater respect for human rights.

Notwithstanding, the centre may engage in co-operation with developed countries as well. Programs for developing countries will be funded by means of the parliamentary

appropriations provided in the Bill. Programs of co-operation with developed countries, however, will be financed from contributions received from public and private sources. The name of the centre is that recommended by the special parliamentary committee to which I referred earlier.

We believe that by basing the centre's mandate on the International Bill of Human Rights, this centre will ensure that its purpose is recognized throughout Canada and abroad, as a valid consequence of Canada's international responsibilities, and that it will be an important application of the report of that special committee, which laid such stress on Canada's foreign policy, having a place not only for recommendations and hopes, but also a much greater place for actions and achievements. We have here one of those achievements, the achievement of this international centre for the study of human rights, which will at least have the potential to bring into being in Canada an expanded knowledge of and a concern for human rights here and throughout the world.

I am very proud to present this legislation as an eloquent and practical reaffirmation of the commitment of Canada's Government and of the Parliament of Canada to constructive international action for the advancement of human rights and democratic institutions.

**Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton—Lawrence):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Member for Scarborough West (Mr. Stackhouse) on his presentation on the purposes and objectives of this institute, and Bill C-147, which is the Bill to effectuate that institution, the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development.

This concept is not something that has suddenly been brought forward in the last minute. Indeed, it is something that has been given a great deal of thought. In June, 1985, a special joint committee of the House of Commons and the Senate was created, which involved members from all three Parties of the House of Commons and from the Parties in the Senate. In its report called *Independence and Internationalism*, which was the result of its studies, which came out in June, 1986, it made a specific recommendation on this very subject. In that recommendation, it called for the establishment of an international institute of human rights and democratic development with carefully prepared guidelines for supporting activities by non-governmental organizations. This recommendation, found on page 105 of that report, comes from the research and concerns that were a result of a year's study of the human rights situation throughout the world, in an overview of international development. It resulted in what is known as the Simard-Hockin report, from which I have just read.

Following this presentation, there was then a Standing Committee of the House of Commons on External Affairs and International Trade—the regular standing committee—which met during the years of 1986 and 1987, and it came out with a report. The Government replied to the Simard-Hockin report, first of all, favourably and said that it was going to try to look