

CIDA

some branches of that Agency, about the low morale of other employees, and about an inquiry made into that by management experts working for a Canadian firm.

That would be most relevant in an analysis of employee behaviour, involving also the members of this House, in the month of February. Any Canadian personnel manager is aware of the psychological effects which the forthcoming end of the winter season has on people. That might actually explain the apparent "filibuster" with respect to bill C-49.

Mr. Wagner: Obviously, this is Women's year!

Miss Bégin: But being aware, like anybody else who has a fair knowledge of personnel administration, of the nature of staff turnover problems, I cannot see what is so awful with the rates compiled for the Agency as compared to the very same classes of employees in the Public Service.

If the hon. member were kind enough to listen to me, in a courteous way possibly, since he has discovered that this was international women's year, I think she who is trying to speak would greatly appreciate it.

The "separation" rate—this is the English term used in personnel analysis—for the employees in the group of civil servants which were supposed to be at the heart of the scandal involving the Agency is lower in this organization than it is for the same class of employees in the Public Service of Canada as a whole that is 5.6 and 7.9 percent respectively for the financial year 1973-74.

Where the class of administrative support is concerned, and that is the bulk of the employees in absolute figures, the Agency is slightly ahead, with a rate of 14.4 percent as opposed to 12.6 percent during the same year for the Public Service of Canada as a whole.

It is a well known fact that the occupational rate is much higher among employees at the lower end of the scale. I have worked in this area myself, and I can find nothing awful with those figures which in fact are averages for all kinds of businesses.

Let me add that I am not shocked if there is higher rate of turnover within the agency, and I am ready to assume that it is a sign of good health. People interested in international development programs are usually young people, and they may be best understood by those who remain young at heart.

When we check with people in the management of long term international assistance, we see that they go from one project to another and may be borrowed from the agency by other groups such as those I already mentioned, that is CUSO, OXFAM, Canada World Youth, to name but a few. At some point in their lives, after spending a limited number of years in this especially energy consuming area of youth endeavour, because it requires full participation in the task undertaken, they may leave this direct aid field for other connected areas of community or social work.

I conclude my remarks, Mr. Speaker. I note with sadness no attempt is made, in spite of numerous opportunities to come to grips with the most recent problems faced by an international development agency such as the one we are dealing with tonight, problems arising from changing gov-

[Miss Bégin.]

ernments in countries in which we are trying to contribute. I shall mention but one of those problems about which one hears a great deal as a delegate to the United Nations, for instance, or to any other similar international organization, and I am referring to the urgently needed transfer of technological knowledge.

I think if we only discussed that problem, or that of the actual results of our economic assistance in the way of meeting the new request from countries wishing to trade with us and to learn international trade, we would make a much more significant contribution to Canadian foreign aid.

[English]

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, there are two principal reasons why the Canadian international aid program must be thoroughly examined by parliament. The first is that the quality of the operation of the Canadian International Development Agency has been called into question, and the second is that world events demand a new approach by developed countries in which aid programs give way to structural reform of international aid and monetary systems. The motion we are debating tonight has been carefully framed to allow for positive debate in order to bring out the very serious aspects of this subject.

I listened very carefully to the minister's speech this afternoon, and found it lacking. I had hoped he would make a speech which would elevate and educate not only members of parliament but the public. Public opinion needs to be formed in this country to sustain an increased international assistance program not just in terms of dollars but in terms of commitments so that developing nations may enter more realistically into international trade and monetary arrangements. That was the message of the United Nations in the series of conferences it held during the past year.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Waldheim, has told us that the interlocking problems that have produced a global emergency are problems of food, population, mass poverty, depletion of energy and resources and capitalization. They are all linked, and demand a comprehensive and unified approach.

I had hoped that the minister would use this debate to bring before the House the plans of the Canadian government—even if they are not complete—for responding to this very critical moment in the history of the world. When he comes to write his memoirs I hope he does not bother to include the speech he made this afternoon. It was not one of his finer moments.

What the minister gave us was an exercise demonstrating a public put-down of an opposition which was not looking for an argument or a fight on CIDA, but for a chance to explore its development. Mr. Speaker, CIDA needs to be examined. The minister did not do us credit in dismissing the arguments so thoughtfully put forward by the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner). He did not respond adequately. If he had wished to give us an opportunity to explore the need for an enlarged Canadian policy he could have agreed to have the annual report of CIDA referred to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence for study. That would have