

As you know, Child Find is a non-profit organization with headquarters in my riding, Saint-Laurent—Cartierville. Its purpose is to reunite missing children with their families.

The group has been asking for government assistance since April 1989. I have written to several members, urging them to support this group by providing substantial financial assistance.

[*English*]

In effect, the grant from the Solicitor General's office will provide the Missing Children's Network with enough funds to hire a single individual to work for three months to contribute to a book project. What should be done is to provide a sufficient level of funding that will ensure the network's ability to actively and without restriction pursue the cases of hundreds of missing children and broken families that each day look forward to reunification.

The Minister of State for Employment and Immigration provided for three UIC recipients to work in their office from September to December of 1989. However, this does not address the issue of continued government support that this organization needs to perform its task.

It is of the utmost importance that the network receive the kind of support that will give it a real chance in helping to reunite missing children with their families.

Unfortunately, it remains painfully clear to me and the rest of Canadians that this government is simply unconcerned about the problem. Instead of demonstrating leadership in the area, this government has given in to bureaucratic pigeon-holing that cannot decide whether the issue of missing kids should be handled by the Solicitor General, the Minister of National Health and Welfare or the Minister of Justice.

It is clear that instead of passing responsibility from department to department, this government should be co-ordinated and unwavering in its support of organizations such as the network that actively try to combat this national social problem.

[*Translation*]

By collaborating with this group, the government would acknowledge that the problem of missing children is a social rather than a criminal one. It is not a straightforward crime that we can hand over to the

police to solve. It is a problem that should be acknowledged as arising from family violence. Not until the government realizes this will we, as a society, be able to deal with the problem of missing children.

Mr. Speaker, why does the government refuse to see the problem of missing children as an aspect of family violence? By doing so, the government is depriving the organization of funds that could be provided by the family violence prevention unit at the Department of National Health and Welfare. This is intolerable.

[*English*]

I say that it is our collective responsibility to protect the needs of Canadian children and families to ensure that every possible resource is allocated to combat this problem.

Let us put this into perspective. The federal government will spend nearly 100,000 of our tax dollars to look into such socially relevant issues—and I am being very sarcastic—as the role of the fool in history or the social significance of lawn ornaments. I am naming just two. It is willing to spend nearly \$25,000 on any one of these issues while it refuses to spend as much in addressing parental abduction and runaways as a result of abuse.

The Missing Children's Network has successfully reunited 60 families across Canada. With adequate resources one could only speculate on the number of successful reunifications that this group could facilitate.

[*Translation*]

The Network has been able to operate until now, thanks to the unceasing work of its staff and volunteers. It has managed to keep financially afloat and thus carry out its tasks and meet its objectives. However, financial resources from the private sector are not unlimited. The government must now do its share and provide a level of funding which will enable the Missing Children's Network to continue its good work and thus give missing children a real chance to find their parents again.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the government's giving the Missing Children's Network \$15,000 is just a drop in the bucket. After waiting over six months for an answer from the government to find out if it could continue with its noble work, it is only being given this trifling sum. We will long remember that this Conservative government