

many proposals alluded to by my colleagues in terms of the definition of a charity, tax incentives and the operations that will be of help.

I have in mind that this discussion has been going on since the Government in the 1970s commissioned the "People in Action" report through to consultation in 1981 when the then Secretary of State drew together the national voluntary agencies. In the last year the present Secretary of State (Mr. Joyal) promised a task force. This was shot down in the budget by the Minister of Finance. Maybe now that we are moving from the Department of the Secretary of State into the Department of Finance we will begin to have this matter addressed in a serious way.

Since I introduced this matter on June 5, 1981 I have been pursuing the issue in committee as critic for the Secretary of State, and in this House. Everywhere people say: "Yes, it is a motherhood issue, but it might cost us". The interesting matter is that the Government affirms that it has not been prepared to set up any Cabinet committee or vehicle to co-ordinate somehow all of the effective policies on the voluntary sector. I have been advocating the creation of a Cabinet committee through which all policies and program proposals before the Government will be cleared in terms of their contributions and impacts in relation to the whole voluntary sector.

In concluding this debate, may I remind the House and those who may be following our discussions today of the importance of rehearsing again what is the impact on this sector. The financial impact is only slowly dawning on many of us.

In a study released by the Secretary of State in January of this year entitled "Some Financial and Economic Dimensions of Registered Charities and Volunteer Activity in Canada", by David Ross, the impact is fully outlined. This paper surely ought to be before the Committee when it reviews the recommendations not only of the Finance Department's discussion paper on charities and foundations but as a context for deciding whether there is a cost benefit. In his report Mr. Ross talks about the revenue and finances of charitable organizations. He notes:

The total revenue received from all sources by the 39,965 registered charities was \$5.84 billion in 1980 (hospitals and teaching institutions were excluded in the financial survey). In comparative terms, this amount is equal to 11 per cent of federal government revenues.

Mr. Ross goes on to talk about the number of paid workers. He states:

—it is concluded an equivalent of about 142,000 full-time positions are generated in the charitable sector.

Then he talks about the number of volunteer workers:

—about 2.7 million Canadians donated an average 2.9 hours per week to organized volunteer work. This represents 15 per cent of the working-age population, and varies between 11 per cent and 27 per cent among the Provinces.

### *Registered Charities*

He then deals with the expenditures of charitable organizations in terms of the economy of the nation. He writes:

One of the largest expenditure items is represented by wages and salaries—amounting to one-third of total expenses. Also comprising a one-third share are direct charitable disbursements (aid) to individuals and groups both at home and abroad. Administrative, conference, meeting and communication expenses, and expenditures to produce goods and services for sale, constitute the other one-third share.

When Mr. Ross focuses on the economic value of volunteer work, he says:

The figure has been placed at \$2.0 billion, which is equivalent to 1.3 per cent of all wages and salaries paid to Canadian workers.

In summing it all up under the heading "The Economic Contribution of Registered Charities and Volunteer Workers", he writes:

Combining the economic contributions of registered charities and volunteer workers gives an estimate of the economic contribution of the "voluntary" sector. The value of this contribution is estimated at \$4.5 billion, or 1.7 per cent of gross national product.

Surely these facts laid before the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs are an indication that after 15 years of intentions concerning giving encouragement to this sector at a time when we are seeking economic growth and seeking to maintain a qualitative standard of life in a nation, at the same time bringing our costs into reality with today's financial climate, it is a most appropriate subject. I look to other Members in the House to encourage the presence of voluntary agency representatives to present the case more fully than we can and, therefore, encourage positive action by this Government and by this House.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** It has been moved by Mr. McGrath, seconded by Mr. Fisher:

That the motion be amended by deleting all of the words after the word "that" and substituting the following therefor:

"Bill C-233, an Act to encourage the role of the voluntary sector in Canadian society, be not now read a second time but that the order be discharged, the Bill withdrawn and the subject matter thereof referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said amendment?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

Amendment agreed to.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion, as amended?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Accordingly, the order is discharged, the Bill is withdrawn and the subject matter