

Oral Questions

both to assist by food aid and also help through the transfer of agriculture and other technologies.

With respect to the hon. gentleman's preface, it is true that Canada is not among the leading nations in terms of its generosity in helping the Third World, but we are far from the worst. I think we are somewhat above the average of the OECD countries. I would accept support from the hon. member's party if he wants this government to reach the aim of .7 much sooner.

Mr. Broadbent: Yes.

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member says "yes". Of course, he never has had and probably never will have the responsibility of governing—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: —but I am prepared to sit down with the Leader of the New Democratic Party or with his financial critic and find areas where we could cut expenditures in Canada in order to divert funds to the Third World. I would be very happy to come up with a bilateral and hopefully even a trilateral agreement.

Mr. Lawrence: What about advertising for the constitution?

Mr. Broadbent: Okay, we will take you up on that.

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, do rules of order apply to the Prime Minister or just to this side of the House?

Madam Speaker: I think the Right Hon. Prime Minister is waiting for the heckling to stop in order that he can continue to give his answer.

RECYCLING OF OPEC SURPLUSES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton South): Madam Speaker, my question is also directed to the Prime Minister. Given that international trips to influence other leaders on North-South issues must be supported by strong policies at home, and given the latest report of the independent North-South Institute which said last week that Canada and the Canadian government had failed on 13 of the policies in the five-year-old international development strategy, can the Prime Minister now tell the House what priorities he will propose for his government to strengthen Canadian policies so that we will have some credibility in international negotiations?

Specifically, is the Prime Minister now ready to move on this single, most important problem in North-South relations, which is the debt trap of the oil-importing, least developed nations? Is the Prime Minister prepared to support international negotiations which will lead to a recycling of OPEC's huge surpluses and to expedite that by having the voting strength of OPEC in international financial institutions increased?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I find the hon. member's question extremely welcome and his suggestion very appropriate. Just as an aside, I suggest that his leader would benefit from rereading the question and the assertion that travel by leaders of this government can be conducive to helping the North-South dialogue.

An hon. Member: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: The guffaws come from someone who wants his leader's job, but I can tell him that he does not have a chance. His leader is much better than he is.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, the point made by the hon. member for Edmonton South is exactly the point I made repeatedly in each of the countries I visited, and it is a point I raised with Saudi Arabia when I visited the country in November. That is one of the reasons we have been trying to influence these various countries into accepting the energy affiliate of the World Bank, which would be precisely designed to do the three things the hon. member suggests: help recycle OPEC dollars, permit the transfer of technology for the finding of more energy resources in the less developed countries, and give a greater voting strength to OPEC.

I point out that I think the idea is making progress. There was a meeting in December at which representatives of some of the countries with which I talked were in attendance, but as far as the Canadian government is concerned the hon. member will note that in the budget we undertook to set aside, I believe, \$250 million for an international affiliate of Petro-Canada so that we could do this job at least bilaterally if by some chance it were not done by the affiliate of the World Bank.

Mr. Roche: Madam Speaker, if the Prime Minister's 12-year-old government had performed as well on North-South issues as did the Leader of the Opposition in his brief tenure as prime minister, the credibility of the Government of Canada would be much better with respect to North-South issues today.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Roche: I want to ask the Prime Minister if he intends to implement the North-South task force report, which was supported by all parties in the House. Several months ago in its interim report the task force said that Canada should support the four emergency measures to break the North-South deadlock recommended in the internationally acclaimed Brandt report: first, an extra \$4 billion annually in aid; second, an international energy strategy; third, a global food program; and fourth, a start on reforming the international economic system. Is the Prime Minister prepared to put his leadership behind those emergency provisions now to break the North-South deadlock?

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, I am prepared to agree with the hon. member that, if his party and leader had stayed in