

Routine Proceedings

In other words, these very helicopters that the government is trying to sell to the Canadian people as being cheaper are going to cost over \$33 million more each year. This is the first piece of subterfuge the details of these estimates succeed in exposing.

• (1125)

These estimates also show that we are turning our backs on the poor and the hungry throughout the world. The suggestion was that we might see some cuts in international aid, but I do not think any Canadian realized that the bulk of the cuts that would be established would be in food aid to the poorest people who are starving in this world.

The amounts detailed in these estimates show that food aid directly will be cut by \$10.6 million each year and food aid funnelled through other organizations will be cut by \$25 million each year. We are talking of a total of over \$35 million in cuts to food aid. That food aid would not only help many starving people in this world, but would also help Canadian farmers find outlets for the food they produce. That is what this government is cutting.

There are some other fascinating and sad details in this particular set of estimates. We are looking for national unity in this country. We are looking for economic development and fairness and economic growth across our country. I hate to say that in the details of these estimates there is a serious undercutting and sabotage of the national unity of this country.

In Atlantic Canada grants have been cut for economic development by \$19 million. In Ontario, especially northern Ontario these grants have been cut by \$1.5 million. In the case of aboriginal economic assistance these grants have been cut by \$6 million. In the case of western diversification, development aid for the western provinces, these cuts are \$16 million. However, for the province of Quebec there is no cut; there is an increase of \$40 million.

We have economic problems throughout this country. For a government to come before this House with a pattern of expenditures that takes away from every part of the country and gives to a single part of the country is not just unfair, it is a devastating attack on our national unity. It is something that should not be permitted. That

is one of the reasons this government must go and go quickly.

As well, there are cuts in this set of detailed expenditure outlines to environmental non-governmental organizations at both the national and international levels. Environmental organizations have been extremely useful and valuable in trying to increase the attention and concern of Canadians with respect to environmental issues.

There are cuts of over \$300,000 to environmental organizations here in Canada. There are also cuts to groups such as the Canadian Energy Research Institute which is looking at alternative energy sources. There are cuts to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. There are cuts to the chemicals control program of the OECD. There are cuts to the economic commission for Europe's co-operative program to monitor the long range transport of air pollution. These are short-sighted cuts which do not recognize the long-term impact and dangers associated with penny pinching on our environmental concerns for the future.

• (1130)

The reality is this government is spending \$5.8 billion on helicopters as compared to the \$4.4 billion it said it was spending. If it was not spending that \$5.8 billion, if it was not spending more money each year to keep its fleet of helicopters going as a result of the replacement, it would be able to take a more enlightened approach to see that food aid got to the people who need it across this world.

The government would be able to see to it that we had a fair distribution of economic development support throughout this country. It would be able to see to it that environmental programs were supported.

Finally the government would have been able to bring to this House as part of its estimates, as it should have, a set of commitments to support AIDS research which the government has had to indicate in its news release it is not yet in a position to announce. This is much to the distress of AIDS organizations throughout this country. They desperately need the bridge financing to keep programs going to deal with one of the most serious epidemics this country knows.