

CIDA

only, however good his intentions, and of his colleagues, whatever their degree of specialization.

● (1550)

Without respite since his election, the Prime Minister has been talking about participatory democracy. He urges Canadians to mind their own business, to be open-minded. At the same time, he protects CIDA activities, rejecting any political protection or stricter political authority over the agency. I feel like telling the Prime Minister what he said in his speech at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel: "Be very careful, right hon. Prime Minister, not to let yourself be taken in by your own words." It is all very nice to speak about participatory democracy, but you must also act.

Mr. Speaker, I see that my colleagues opposite are already convinced of the appropriateness of the motion. I would simply like to add that we have difficulty understanding, for example, CIDA's help to Brazil, a country whose economic health now allows it to launch its own foreign aid program. Brazil suggested that Canada's assistance be transferred to the Brazilian foreign aid program.

We also need to be explained the whole story behind that aerial photogrammetry project which we have been financing for five years in Morocco, and which is still incomplete after expenditures of over \$4 million.

It might also be relevant to know the in-depth story about our help to the Ivory Coast in the Odienne area. Canada, as we know, undertook to carry out the rural electrification of the southwestern part of the Ivory Coast. A peculiarity of that electrification which, according to several experts, would have been more normal starting from the centre of the country, was that it allowed access to San Pedro, a dock for the iron ore locally extracted by a California firm for a Pittsburgh company.

From another point of view, we wonder about the very philosophy of this government and CIDA in the area of foreign aid. We question its coherence in that regard. Let me quote as an example Canada's attitude vis-à-vis Haiti and Haitians.

On the subject of Haitians awaiting deportation from Canada the government of Canada entrenched itself in a legalistic attitude that ignored all human elements in the record. By its unexplainable stubbornness the government of Canada made its desire known to the world to base its hospitality on most selfish economic rules. When a country behaves like that it is because its International Development Agency can be charged in certain quarters with taking an attitude, not of contribution to the better-being of the Third World, but of a business spearhead.

The philosophy of CIDA must be discussed. I should like to believe that some of the things we heard from one of the directors of CIDA are not representative of the general attitude. I will come back to it later when the estimates are considered.

So, it is to ensure a valid orientation for CIDA, more efficient administration of CIDA, and better participation of the people in the challenge of sharing their bread with the Third World, as the Canadian bishops urged, that we strongly insist that the agency be put under the political trusteeship of a specific minister other than the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

[Mr. Wagner.]

In that regard, Mr. Speaker, I shall venture to use the arguments of Mr. Claude Lemelin, a former editorial writer of *Le Devoir* who, if I am not mistaken, has recently been made a special assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wagner: The applause from my colleagues opposite makes me happy. That means they will endorse Mr. Lemelin's proposal and make it part of their policy. I quote:

The Prime Minister should also seriously consider—

Those words do not come from the opposition but from the assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I resume the quotation:

The Prime Minister should also seriously consider putting CIDA under the political trusteeship of a minister other than that of External Affairs. Thanks to this measure, the president of the agency would not too often have to take initiatives and decisions of a purely political nature vis-à-vis foreign countries; with this measure also, one minister would have the exclusive responsibility of promoting in a more efficient way the "international development" function and its bureaucratic implications within government agencies; for the last few years have shown that the workload of the Secretary of State for External Affairs does not allow him to give CIDA an efficient political orientation. With this in mind, we may think of two alternatives: either appointing a Minister of State for External Affairs in charge of CIDA but responsible to the Secretary of State, if it appears that the activities of this agency have to stay administratively related to the foreign policy of our nation, or making CIDA the Department of International Development... the activities of which would then be coordinated with those of other departments within cabinet committees...

I am extremely pleased at the arrival of Mr. Lemelin in the department, and I can already see that suggestion endorsed.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I will say that we want to develop public participation in our foreign help. That is why, in fact, we formulated in a very objective way the following three ideas in our party's program:

(1) To intensify our efforts to take advantage of the expertise of professionals, students, self-employed people and retired Canadians who might serve overseas in the field of development, help, technology and engineering. They would all belong to an international development body which would work in cooperation with CUSO, CWUS (Canadian World University Services) and other organizations such as OXFAM, which get public help.

(2) To establish a national council for international cooperation, comprising representatives of various churches—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member. I tried to allow him to conclude his remarks, but he already overextended his time by two minutes. Unless there is unanimous consent from the House, I must under the order accepted by the House—

Mr. Guay (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, I would give agreement, if the hon. member will let us put some questions after he has concluded his speech.

Mr. Wagner: This I will do with pleasure, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleagues.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: As the hon. member for Lévis knows, if the suggestion is to be accepted, I must ask for