

Adjournment Debate

The Canadian International Development Agency in 1970 had one president and three vice-presidents. In 1985, 15 years later, the same agency has one president, one senior vice-president and 10 vice-presidents. Agriculture Canada, in 1970, had one Deputy Minister and three Assistant Deputy Ministers. Today, in 1985, it has one Deputy Minister, one Associate Deputy Minister, one senior ADM and six ADMs. Even the Government's watchdog agency, the office of the Auditor General, has seen costs mushroom and grow. In 1970, that agency had one Auditor General and one assistant. Today, it has one Auditor General, three Deputy Auditor Generals and 12 assistant Auditor Generals.

I have had over 30 years of experience in a financial institution and my experience is that when one wants to cut costs, it must be done together with cutting back on the number of jobs in one's own agency. Again, I applaud the Minister for what he is doing, as the people of Canada are looking for this type of leadership.

My main area of concern is the harmful and insidious impact of drugs and violent pornography on this country and how they are eroding the values of our social and family lives, the cornerstone of our great country. I can speak with first-hand knowledge of the terrible use of drugs which goes on at several local high schools and shopping plazas in Don Valley East. The local police are almost perplexed about what to do with the drug problem that exists.

During the election campaign of 1984, I attended at a housing development during the supper hour. At 11.30 that night a man telephoned me from that housing development. He was worried and asked if we could not do something to help reduce the drug trafficking problem in that local housing development. He told us that while he was talking to a few youths drug trading was going on just a few feet from him. I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, that in no way should the action of the Minister create any increased risk of extra drugs in this country.

● (1815)

Just to comment on the terrible problem of violent pornography in this country, it has spread now to the video tape machines in this country. I attended with my wife a symposium on private violence several months ago in Toronto. We were disgusted with the type of hard-core violent pornography which exists in this country today, and through the leadership of agencies such as the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. MacKay), the Solicitor General of Canada (Mr. Beatty) and the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) I am very hopeful that this terrible problem can be reduced in this country.

Let me just close by saying that while I applaud the Minister very strongly for his initiative in doing his part to reduce the cost of Government in this country, I just ask for his assurance that it in no way will increase the problem of violent pornography in this country and the use of drugs.

Mr. Pierre H. Vincent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, the

Government's restraint program, as initially described in the economic statement of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) in November 1984, and reaffirmed in the budget of May 1985, requires that the Public Service be reduced by 15,000 person-years over the next five years. In support of this over-all Government initiative, Federal Departments were asked by Treasury Board to develop plans whereby their person-year base would be substantially reduced over the next five years.

In compliance with this request, The Department of Customs and Excise developed a departmental plan which will lead to a reduction in person-years from a 1985 figure of 10,148 to 9,292 by 1990, a total decrease of 856 person-years. These reductions will be implemented in accordance with specific targets which have been established for each year of the five year period. This plan will be submitted to Treasury Board for approval this month.

In approaching this task, the department selected measures that would allow it to streamline its operations, improve productivity and, where possible, transfer operations to the private sector. None of these reductions will effect the department's capability to carry out its mandate, including the interception of pornography and illegal drugs coming into Canada.

The postal improvement project was established to achieve significant resource reductions in customs' postal operations. A pilot test will be conducted in the Montreal region beginning in October. National implementation is scheduled for April 1986 if the evaluation of the project demonstrates that the new postal system is successful.

The purpose of centralizing the examination of international mail would be to improve service to the public while substantially reducing cost by streamlining customs mail processing operations. Customs' ability to screen the mail entering Canada will not be affected by this centralization. Customs inspectors will continue to examine the mail, assess duty and taxes owing and prohibit the entrance of such goods as drugs, pornography and firearms. Customs processing of international mail will be concentrated in 12 centres, thus alleviating Canada Post's routine concerns, because over 99 per cent of international mail entering Canada will pass through these 12 centres. Furthermore, the concentration will enable Customs and Canada Post to eliminate a considerable amount of double handling of dutiable mail. Recipients of dutiable mail will no longer have to visit Customs offices to collect their goods.

● (1820)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary's time has expired.

FISHERIES—REFINANCING OF FISHERY PRODUCTS
INTERNATIONAL. (B) COMPANY'S SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Mr. George Baker (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, a couple of days ago I asked the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen), presently the Acting Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, with responsibilities as well for several other Govern-