

said, and there were witnesses to that meeting. That is the first thing which should be understood.

Second, the member said that I have not indicated the disagreements to COPE. I met with COPE in Ottawa and in Inuvik. I met with their lawyers last week. As well, on October 26, I sent them a six page telex which outlined in detail the various areas where there was serious question about the possibility of coming to a final agreement if those were not clarified first.

When the member says to me that I have not outlined clearly to COPE some of the outstanding issues, I say in all sincerity that he is wrong, because I have done it, not only verbally in person here in Ottawa and in the Northwest Territories, but also in writing. I say to him that the government wants to settle land claims, but I say to him in all sincerity that there is no point in settling a land claim and having a final agreement until such time as the rights of all native people and non-natives alike are met in such a way that they can live in harmony in the Northwest Territories.

● (2220)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—FOREIGN AID EXPENDITURES FOR
COMING YEAR

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, tonight I must address a grave issue, the discrepancy between the aid of hollow rhetoric and real aid.

On November 6 I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Miss MacDonald) for assurance that the \$15 million aid commitment to Kampuchea, a commitment that we all fully support was not made at the expense of any existing aid programs provided by either the government or non-governmental organizations. I was shocked at her cool evasion of the question, at her flippant avoidance of what seems to be emerging as her policy on aid. It looks suspiciously like a policy of hypocrisy. I feel somewhat like Emile Zola penning his famous "J'accuse" article in pursuit of truth and justice for Louis Dreyfus.

No one would dispute the crying need for immediate and massive aid to Kampuchea. One million children are starving to death; in total, roughly 2.5 million people are near death, weakened by hunger and disease. All of Canada has been moved by their plight, and all of Canada is committed to the \$15 million promised to relieve the tragedy that is unfolding in that country. But, what pride is there in knowing that the money to meet that commitment has been taken from previous commitments to other refugee relief efforts?

I understand that \$2.5 million has been drawn from the food aid budget and another \$2 million has come from the emergency fund. Is this true? I also have been told that a further \$500,000 of the aid commitment to Kampuchea has been taken from budget moneys that had already been assigned to various non-governmental agencies' aid projects, projects that could include refugee assistance in other parts of the world.

The NGOs themselves do not know; they were not even consulted on the matter. All they know is that the money to

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back up previous commitments is no longer there. There is just the hollow shell of rhetoric, plus project work going on without the funds that were intended to pay for them, yet the Secretary of State for External Affairs had the gall to say on November 6:

I can assure the hon. member that the attention and the importance we shall be attaching to the work of the non-governmental organizations will increase, not decrease, in the years ahead.

Increase? How can it increase when it will be minus \$500,000?

In repeating my question I would also like to ask about the last \$10 million which has yet to be sent to Kampuchea. I understand that there is no new money left in CIDA's coffers to fulfil this commitment. Where, then, is the money to come from? What other program is the government planning to cut to satisfy the slasher, the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Stevens)?

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to return to the first part of the question I asked on November 6. Again I was treated to fancy political footwork rather than an honest answer to a genuine concern. I asked for assurances that Canada's aid expenditures this coming year would be adjusted for the inflation factor in Canada and around the world so that there would be no decrease in real aid given. I was told that "there will be no fewer dollars paid out next year than there has been this year". That is no answer; that is avoidance.

Every Canadian knows how much inflation has eaten into the real value of the dollar. Every Canadian can feel for the people of Zaire, struggling with a 112 per cent inflation rate this year, and the people of Ghana, struggling with an inflation rate some people have quoted as close to 150 per cent this year.

These are the people the hon. minister referred to in her maiden speech at the United Nations when she called for a recommitment to the basic human rights of "enough food, health care, education and shelter". "Problems of want must be attached directly and urgently in the 1980s", she said. I ask again, as we sit here within 50 days of the 1980s, is this government going to do its share by adjusting for the inflation rate in these struggling countries, plus adjusting for the Canadian inflation rate, and increasing its dollar commitment accordingly?

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that I can have an answer to both of these questions; whether the facts I have cited are true about the money that has been taken to fulfil our commitment to Kampuchea, and whether in fact there is going to be a real increase in aid this coming year.

● (2225)

Mr. John Reimer (Kitchener): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to respond to the hon. member for New Westminster-Coquitlam (Miss Jewett) on behalf of my colleague, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Roche). I will try to confine my remarks to the questions raised by the hon. member.