

international citizens we are and how we are working steadily toward the United Nations goal, which seems ever elusive, of 0.7 per cent of our GNP as our aid figure. At the present time, if I am not mistaken, we have reached just over 0.5 per cent in working toward that goal. This is fine, grand, wonderful and makes everyone feel happy. But what are we spending the money on? We do not know—and we should know. The Canadian people deserve to know; the Canadian people are entitled to know.

On April 29 of this year I tabled a series of questions in committee. I knew, by name, some of these projects and therefore I was able to be specific. I will own that the answers were given promptly to those specific questions. But what about members who have not had the opportunities that I have had to know specific projects as they were begun or as they were working their way through the system? Who had ever heard of the Nam Ngum project, for example? It is unfair; members of parliament should have this information as a matter of course.

I therefore ask for the production of these country programs covering the 1972-73, 1973-74, and 1974-75 fiscal years. I think we are entitled to more than just CIDA's programs. For example, I should like to know in what countries CIDA is contributing to CUSO programs, and how far it is assisting other NGOs in particular countries. Further, I want to know whether export credits have been extended to any particular country, and I want the figures. How many students have been sent to Canada from these individual countries? That is not too difficult a matter to bring forward.

In the minutes of proceedings of our Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence for April 10, there is a selected list of projects appended as appendix B. I have also seen, bound in convenient form, area or country programs relating to the 200 projects. We are offered a selection of programs. This was in June of 1974. I have also seen country by country programs listed in digest form. These are the documents that need to be produced. But we want all of them, not selections. I believe we are entitled to that, not just to add paper to the piles already covering our desks, and in some cases our floors, frequently finding its way into our waste-baskets. In this case it will not be put in our waste-baskets. We should know how many Canadians are involved on the ground, how much is allotted to each program, how the money is being spent, how much is being spent, and how a project stands on the critical path to completion. These facts are our due.

I placed a question on the order paper earlier this year which related to the number of universities granted funds to develop overseas aid projects, scientific teaching, and so on. I was told that CIDA's accounting system is not geared to extract that information except through a file by file search. I was asked whether, in consequence, I would withdraw my request. I probably will, particularly if I get the papers I am asking for in this debate, because if the documents I am asking for are properly and fully prepared, that matter will be revealed in due course.

I have asked questions in committee about the fundamental need in developing countries for developing proper water supplies and transmission systems for water, knowing how fundamental water is to the very notion of development. Anyone who has been in a developing country

knows that it is impossible to calculate the number of man, woman and child-hours absorbed in the simple task of carrying water from a spring to the home for cooking and washing purposes. I raised the question and I was told that I should look at the tense of the verb—they "are" now going to be doing it; in the past they were not doing it so much. But why should that have been left to one side by CIDA and/or its predecessors for 15 years until it has now been taken on in this form? I encouraged the minister, when making a visit to Africa, to examine this particular aspect during his trip.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but the time allotted to him has expired.

● (1720)

[Translation]

Mr. Charles Lapointe (Charlevoix): Madam Speaker, the motion of my hon. colleague from Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro) is quite important since it provides us once again with the opportunity to discuss the program of help to development, and to study the documents prepared by various civil servants from the departments which deal with that matter and I think that in the years and in the months to come it will be extremely important that we all give very serious consideration to that question of help to development.

Having had the pleasure and pride of belonging to the Canadian diplomacy, I think a lot of what my hon. colleague said was true when he mentioned the over-classification in the Department of External Affairs with respect to international policy. However, I think my hon. colleague is misled when he says that political parties or for that matter the political party in power hide behind that kind of classification. Madam Speaker, I cannot agree with that statement since unfortunately that policy may be one of the drawbacks of that career. People in the diplomatic service have to classify a lot of documents since you never know what might happen when a document which may look harmless to an ordinary civil servant is not reviewed, and since it may concern various departments, it might sometimes be prejudicial to declassify that document.

At the outset of his statement the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich also said that he resented the fact that those documents were not released because he was asking for documents relating to 1972-73 and the years before 1975-76. Here again I have to disagree with my hon. colleague, since when it comes to developing programs respecting countries, that programming cannot be effected on a mere 12-month basis. Quite obviously we have to take previous data into account, historical and economic data as well as information dealing with bilateral relationships, and we also have to take into consideration a five or ten-year projection, and more specifically with respect to foreign help, some programs extend over several years and others which, even if they are in effect for one year only, may have an impact over a number of years. I therefore believe that certain documents, even going back to 1972, may still be of a confidential nature.

I would now like to address myself more specifically to the motion by the hon. member requesting the tabling of area programs. After reading the motion and learning I