

Adjournment Debate

today throughout the world are experiencing. A world summit for children would analyse the circumstances of not only Third World children but of our own children here in Canada, one million of whom are living below the poverty line.

Because of health and nutrition improvements world-wide between 1950 and 1988, the death rate among children dropped from 25 million to 14 million or almost half. Low cost health measures, such as immunization and oral rehydration therapy, have saved millions of lives. Of course it is a well-known fact that the best method to control population growth is to assure parents that their children will survive.

Third World countries, in the absence of social assistance programs, depend upon their children for economic and social security in times of illness and old age. Canada at the beginning of this century, when we were predominantly a rural economy and without our social assistance programs, was little different.

The point is that child survival leads to lower population growth. For all the progress made in the last 40 years, suddenly the trend in child survival has reversed. Child deaths are on the increase. International debt problems are considered by UNICEF to be the major cause for this appalling situation. Because of Third World debts and depressed export prices, Third World Governments world-wide have had to cut their health expenditures by 50 per cent, their education expenditures by 25 per cent. Because of Third World debt, the developed world, the western industrialized nations, and the North are the net recipients of the world-wide cash flows amounting to about \$20 billion to \$30 billion U.S. per year.

For all the official development assistance that Canada and other developed nations send to the Third World, we receive more in cash back than we send. No wonder that the world-wide development process is in reverse. What is more, the Canadian Government in its Budget has cut official development assistance expenditures more than any other area of expenditure cut and has the gall to tell the starving and naked in the Third World to tighten their belts because we have had a drought, we have a debt problem.

In your mind's eye, Mr. Speaker, you can see the pathetic images of misery, starvation, disease, filth. The

pathetic images, mostly of children, have moved Canadians and still do to such generosity of response. Our Government's ODA budget cuts will have the direct affect of causing thousands of those human beings, again mostly children, to die. The Canadian Government's budget cuts to ODA do not reflect the Canadian peoples wishes and concerns.

The Conservative Government's lifeline now reaches only 20 feet, to quote a colleague on the other side of the House in a speech a few weeks ago. The drowning of the Third World are 30 feet away, to continue his metaphor, and must swim or drown. This is un-Canadian and shameful.

To quote UNICEF in its report "The State of the World's Children 1989", it reads:

It is children who are bearing the heaviest burden of debt and recession in the 1980s, and in tragic summary, it can be estimated that at least half a million young children from one to five years have died in the last 12 months as a result of the slowing down or the reversal of progress in the developing world.

It is the children who are bearing the heaviest burden of our budget cuts to ODA.

However, it is not just the child deaths which are tragic. It is the unnecessary future burden created by deprivation; deprivation which even when temporary causes permanent damage to growing minds and bodies.

The child disabilities we are creating today will cost us so dearly tomorrow. Will we never learn that investment today is a saving for the future? Spending on health and education is not something that can only be afforded in times of plenty. It is an investment in our future, in the economic and social development of ours and other societies, which allows for a secure future.

It is the Third World debt and diminished export prices which are the main reason for diminishing world-wide child welfare standards. Governments, international financial institutions, private banks, and development agencies are all having to confront the problems.

To date, adjustments and the burdens imposed by adjustments are being borne by those least able, the poor in the Third World, who have no resources to cushion the economic blows. Adjustment means trying to survive on even less of life's essentials. It means depriving children of food, housing, water, health care, education, opportunity. For 40,000 young children every day, it means not surviving. All of this, and yet adjustment does