

lem and all Canadians will applaud it for taking action. We will not blame the Minister of Finance if he backs away from those cuts. We know that he has other goals to achieve, but I am sure Canadians would not want these goals achieved at the expense of hunger in the world.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I too would like to say to the Minister that the response of the Government to the Canadian public's concern is admirable. I am sure that the Minister and the Government are as much aware as we are on this side of the great concern that Canadians have shown through their phone calls and financial contributions. This concern over starvation in Africa is not just recent but has continued for some time. Undoubtedly it has been brought to a head in the last few months because of the global village in which we now live. When television captures the misery and horror in one part of the world, we instantly know about it. Television has brought to our attention vividly the plight of these literally starving millions in Ethiopia and indeed at least seven other countries of Africa in a most serious way.

We welcome the announcement by the Minister today that a special fund of \$50 million will be established, part of which, yet to be determined, will be used to provide matching grants to organizations and individuals in the private sector who have shown their concern about this tragic situation.

I was also pleased to hear the Minister say that he is already taking steps to ensure better co-ordination among donor nations. I believe he said that he has written to the leaders of the economic summit nations and to officials in the United Nations to determine if a better co-ordination of donors could be provided and ensured.

I realize that the Minister cannot provide an answer now, but I would like him to indicate in the future whether he has also taken steps, through consultation with other donor nations in the western world and quite possibly those in eastern Europe, to co-ordinate their activities on long-term development assistance.

My colleague, the Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River (Mr. Skelly), reminds me that this was one of the Government's primary concerns when he was with the Minister in Addis Ababa. While this concern for greater co-ordination of long-term development assistance does not take precedence over the immediate crisis—because it is extremely vital to meet this immediate crisis—it does involve problems of a deeper and long-term nature. It was over 13 months ago when the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization warned that 22 of Africa's 50 nations were already suffering catastrophic food shortages. The former Minister of Agriculture, Eugene Whelan, was aware of this. I understand that he tried to persuade the previous government to respond to it but was unsuccessful.

The present Government is aware of the FAO report that it has been the worst drought in Africa this century. Although our emergency assistance is both valuable and important, the

Minister is well aware that it will not solve the long-term problem.

I hope the Minister will also indicate if he has any assurance that the emergency aid special fund will go to those in need. I thought that he would have mentioned that in his remarks today. It is my understanding that the situation is of the most grave proportions in Eritrea and Tigre, yet civil war rages there. Does he have any assurance that the aid will go to those most in need?

The Minister has already been asked to clarify exactly from where the \$50 million will come, but can he tell us what is its relationship to the \$180 million cut in ODA in the current fiscal year? Will it remain the same or is it now reduced by \$50 million? I think it is important for us to know that as well.

A third question to which the Minister did not comment concerns the Government's influence in helping to bring the civil war to an end. Does he not have a grave concern—

Mr. Speaker: I deeply regret to interrupt the Hon. Member but the tradition is very clear that the time for response by opposition Party spokesmen should not exceed the time used by the Minister. Could the Hon. Member conclude her remarks briefly?

Ms. Jewett: Mr. Speaker, this is my final question. The Minister will know that over a third of the budget of Ethiopia is spent on the military. Has he made an effort to persuade the Government of Ethiopia to take the Brandt Commission seriously and be as constructive as possible to end the civil war in Ethiopia?

● (1220)

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Does the Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre) want to ask a question?

Mr. Lapierre: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and it happens to be about funding. I think that we all have heard about the cuts made by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) last week. I would like the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) to give me the assurance that the \$50 million he is talking about is money to be spent very soon, not over a number of years, and tell me whether it is in fact sliced off the \$180 million. Can we now tell Canadians that external aid expenditures will be cut down by \$130 million, not \$180 million?

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the best thing I can do is to indicate the source of the \$50 million: \$28 million come from the cancellation of cuts ordered by the former government led by the present Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner). We are cancelling some of the cutbacks made by the previous administration and \$28 million from those funds have now been earmarked for the Africa fund. Some \$13 million come from savings flowing from the cuts announced recently by the Minister of Finance. The rest of the money for the fund comes from Canadian commitments to