

Oral Questions

also considered providing matching grants, out of this fund or other funds, to the contributions of private individuals and organizations?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have not done that yet. I expect to be in a position to make an announcement within the next few days regarding that precise kind of action. We are not sure of the nature of a matching formula or whether or not that formula will be part of the announcement, although it is being considered. However, let me make a point and ask again for the help of the Hon. Member, and indeed of all Hon. Members of the House of Commons.

We believe that there is an urgent job for the Government of Canada to do, and we intend to do it. However, this is a matter of concern not only for the Government, this is a matter of concern for the people of Canada. I ask the help of Members of Parliament throughout the House of Commons, and of citizens across the country, to ensure that the Government acts and that the people act to do what we can to stop the starving in Ethiopia.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Jewett: Mr. Speaker, it was on behalf of this Party that I asked whether or not the Government was going to start such a special fund and was going to have sharing with private citizens, because we feel very strongly that the Government can do so.

ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, the Minister will know that Willy Brandt, the head of the Socialist International, is now heading a commission to see whether or not there are ways by which the warring factions in the northeast of Ethiopia can be brought to a ceasefire. I understand that the Eritreans, and I think the Tygraians as well, have agreed to a ceasefire. Can the Minister, or will the Minister use his influence with the Government of Ethiopia to get its co-operation with the Brandt Commission and its efforts?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I confess that that is not a matter which I raised with the Ethiopians. I will raise it with them another time. I repeat what I said to the Hon. Member for—

Mr. Chrétien: Saint-Maurice.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): I am too accustomed to referring to him as a Minister. I am glad that is behind us. As I said to the Hon. Member for Saint-Maurice earlier today, I think that a very important part of our approach to this question is to determine whether or not the mission upon which former Chancellor Brandt has embarked will in fact, at this point in time, help us deliver aid to the starving.

UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMS

Mr. Reg Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, my question is also addressed to the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs and is supplementary to the previous question. The global implications of the Ethiopian food crisis have already called for substantial efforts by the United Nations and national Governments which have spent many billions of dollars since 1974. How impressed is the Minister that these programs have been and are now sufficiently well directed to merit Canada continuing its support for these programs, such as those of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization?

• (1500)

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt at all that Canada must continue to support multilateral approaches to development and, as well, must continue to pursue a very active bilateral program. It is important for us, in this period of active broad attention in Canada to the crisis in Africa, to turn the attention of Canadians to the fact that this crisis did not emerge overnight. If we are to prevent starvation in the future there must be much more attention given by authorities in countries which are affected by starvation, and in countries like ours, to ensuring that there are programs of rehabilitation and agricultural renewal in those societies. That is a commitment of this Government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

WELCOME TO NEW PAGES

Mr. Speaker: I wish to bring to the attention of Members the presence of the group of pages in the House who started their new duties, along with many of us, last Monday.

Each one of those 40 young men and women is enrolled as a first-year full-time student at either Carleton University or the University of Ottawa, and was selected from over 400 applicants from across Canada to participate in the House's page program.

They will be working with us for one year and I am sure that all Members will want to join with me today in wishing them a rewarding and worth-while experience in the House of Commons.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker: I am sure all Members will want to join me in wishing the pages the best of luck and hope with me that their year with the House of Commons will prove to be a profitable and enriching experience.