

cutting back development projects in those countries is absolutely catastrophic from a human point of view. Despite the progress that has been made by the aid programs of Canada and other nations within the U.N. system, at present 800 million people, almost one-quarter of humanity, are living on the margins of society. Therefore, I submit again, there is a double track reason. All of that is at the heart of development education. In the parliamentary task force we recommended that one per cent of official development assistance be given to development education. The Government has not responded affirmatively at all. The Government has stalled on this question. The CIDA Estimates indicate that less than half of one per cent of ODA is going into development education. Why is that? Members of this House supported the report and that recommendation. I think the Government really has to—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member but his time has expired.

Mr. Bockstael: Mr. Speaker, some of the earlier speakers drew attention to the fact that there was some difficulty in determining the category of non profit organizations and charitable organizations. Others highlighted the legitimacy of the advocacy of certain groups. The Secretary of State (Mr. Joyal) indicated this morning that he was establishing a joint task force of the Senate and the House of Commons whose mandate will be related to the study of the definition of a registered charity under the Income Tax Act. This task force has been the subject of numerous conferences prior to this year. It was the subject at the third annual conference of the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy. I would like to ask the Hon. Member for Edmonton South (Mr. Roche) if he agrees that this is the proper approach in his view. Does he feel we should have a task force to clarify this and establish a basis on which charitable organizations would be eligible for tax deduction purposes?

● (1250)

Mr. Roche: Mr. Speaker, as I have said, I have a very serious reservation about the terms of reference for this new joint committee that are to be found on the Order Paper. They certainly do not include a mandate for the committee to study tax credit proposals. That is not in the motion.

Indeed, it is not just a question of simple omission; it is a question of the Government rejecting the submission of the Progressive Conservative Party. I am not sure if the NDP members were consulted, and I would be interested to hear their views on this, but there was a rejection by the Government of the request by the Official Opposition that the task force be empowered to study the tax credit proposals to get finally at the question of finances.

In answer to the Hon. Member, many people are very much offended in our country by a system that we have in our society according to which, if someone gives money to a political Party, a tax credit is given for it. All Members of the House are familiar with that system. If people give \$100 to a

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political Party, they get a \$75 tax credit straight from their income tax.

A legitimate question being asked by some is, if such a system is in place for political Parties why is it not in place for registered charities that, in their submission, are doing as much for the country as are political Parties? That is an interesting debatable point which I will not go into now.

The voluntary organizations are not asking for 75 per cent off the \$100; they are asking for a 50 per cent tax credit. Of course, that would be affected by the scale of the contributions. It is a much more equitable system.

I say to the Hon. Member that I believe the joint committee that is about to be established as a result of the notice on the Order Paper is inadequate to the total problem that voluntary organizations are facing today, which is not just a question of advocacy and the terms of reference of advocacy and how far one can go in espousing public policy. The committee must also study the ways in which we increase incentives to raise money from the private sector as it has shown the ability to do. Canadians are standing behind these voluntary organisations because they recognize the value of those services.

I believe that the tax credit proposal that the volunteer organizations have put forward for several years, and for which I argued at length in 1980, at least deserves the study by this formal task force now.

Mr. Bockstael: The Hon. Secretary of State, in listing the guidelines of encouragement for voluntary action, stressed co-operation between government and voluntary agencies. It has been the case in my constituency that organizations which would be part of this group seeking a new commitment that 50 per cent of donations would be exempt from income tax, are also organizations that apply for Canada Works, Summer Works and various schemes that the federal Government puts forward.

Is it the Hon. Member's belief that giving these voluntary organizations a larger share of donations and contributions would obviate the need for them to make further demands on the Government in other areas?

Mr. Roche: Mr. Speaker, it certainly might do that. I think that many charitable organizations are sort of being forced into this job-creation program, which is supposed to be set up on an emergency basis, because of their shortage of funds and the needs in their own community. To the extent that we enhance the capacity of voluntary organizations to respond to local needs in the ways in which they are set up, I believe there is a reduced need for the Government to pour money into special job-creation programs. I think the permanent jobs can be created by voluntary organizations.

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I want to single out another part of the speech made by the Member for Edmonton South (Mr. Roche). I think he should be complimented and thanked for what he said about external aid.

He emphasized the tremendous growth which has taken place, which people do not sufficiently realize. He mentioned