

that context, CIDA was right of course in deciding to stop subsidizing public awareness organizations here, in Canada, because, if they realize how important public awareness of development assistance is, they do not have to be paid to do the job.

Mr. Philippe Paré (Louis-Hébert, BQ): Mr. Speaker, how can the minister, after spending nearly \$1 million on the Canadian foreign policy review, ignore a joint committee recommendation to increase funding levels for the Public Participation Program?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, numerous organizations, in Quebec in particular, but also across Canada, do outstanding work in international development. I am thinking of OXFAM Québec, the Léger foundation, the Lajoie foundation and many other organizations carrying out worthwhile development projects abroad.

What we are saying is that we will not only continue to support but in fact increase our support to these organizations in their development programs abroad. We hope that, as far as public awareness is concerned, this work can continue without Canadian organizations taking money that should normally go to the poorest of the poor in the neediest countries.

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[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. Myron Thompson (Wild Rose, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I am from Wild Rose and Stoney Reserve is in Wild Rose. I flew to that site myself just the other day. I know very little about logging so I took two experts with me who do know.

I have never seen such a mess in all my life. It is a disaster. It is worse than the cod. That is how bad it is. Why will the minister not stand on his feet and explain to the House why something was not done for 12 full months?

• (1440)

Hon. Ron Irwin (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, why does the member not start pointing the finger at who actually went in there? B.C. cutters went in there, big time, with a heck of a lot of money for inducement. The logs have to be shared.

What happened there was not right. It was not all Indian doing. Where did those logs go? Those logs went to some big companies in B.C.

Mr. Myron Thompson (Wild Rose, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, maybe some day we can change this from question period to answer period.

I never said the blame was on anybody. I did not blame one individual. I want to know why this department sat back and let that go on for so long and did nothing?

Oral Questions

Hon. Ron Irwin (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I will try to lower the rhetoric.

I refer to what Bishop Hannen of Caledonia said: "It is the duty of Christians to address more than 100 years of native injustice—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

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[Translation]

CIDA

Mr. Richard Bélisle (La Prairie, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Foreign Affairs. We just learned that CIDA has completely cut its support to non-governmental organizations promoting public awareness to international development. That decision directly threatens the survival of over 80 of these NGOs in Quebec and in Canada, as well as that of the Quebec association for international co-operation organizations.

How can the Minister of Foreign Affairs justify cutting CIDA's support to NGOs promoting international co-operation, while awarding a generous contract of \$99,510 to his friend, the unsuccessful Liberal candidate in La Prairie, Jacques Saada, for developing a simple communication plan on CIDA's program for the Maghreb?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to tell the hon. member, who got elected the last time, that he had better be good and ready, because next time he will not get re-elected.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Ouellet: He is not impressing his voters with this kind of accusations.

Mr. Richard Bélisle (La Prairie, BQ): Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the minister that, in the meantime, he is financially supporting the Liberal candidate who was defeated in the October 1993 election, with the money of the taxpayers of Quebec and Canada.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Bélisle: Will the minister confirm that, by setting the amount of the contract at \$99,510, he was making sure that it would be awarded to his friend Jacques Saada, since, had he gone over \$100,000, the contract would have had to be awarded through the tender call procedure?

• (1445)

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

The Speaker: We want to hear the answer. The Minister of Foreign Affairs has the floor.