

job training for young people is of significant importance. I believe it is.

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### ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS FINANCING

#### FEDERAL FUNDING OF MEDICAL CARE AND EDUCATION

**Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In the Throne Speech the Government indicated:

More than \$500 million, above and beyond the \$13 billion estimated at the start of the year, will be transferred to the provinces in 1983-84.

Could the Minister indicate whether that \$500 million, which would be under the Established Programs Financing both for health care and for post-secondary education, is new money or discretionary money, or whether it is money that would have naturally flowed to those two programs through the formula to which the Provinces and the federal Government agreed, through the Established Programs Financing?

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I confirm to the Hon. Member that this is money the Provinces do not have right now. In that sense it is definitely additional money. He deliberately used many categories in an attempt to show that it was not additional money. It is additional money, the specifics of which will be given by the Minister of Finance to his counterparts later this afternoon.

As to the allocation of such funds within the provincial Governments, I hope each provincial Health Minister will do his homework and get the most out of it, because of course the cheque goes to the Treasurer.

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF FINANCE

**Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher):** I am glad the Minister of National Health and Welfare referred to the Minister of Finance. At the meeting in Montreal between the Minister of Finance and the provincial finance Ministers it was reported that the Minister of Finance for Canada clearly pointed out that this was not discretionary money, that this was not new money, that this was money which the federal Government was obligated to transfer to those two programs through the agreements with the provinces. I ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare why it would be the Minister of Finance who would be feeling somewhat concerned that the impression was left that it was discretionary and new money when in fact it was not? Would she say very clearly that this is money which the Government of Canada would have had to pay whether or not there was a Throne Speech?

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, if the Minister of Finance is reported to have already answered officially and publicly, why is the Hon. Member asking me such a question?

**Mr. McGrath:** Because you are in the House.

### Oral Questions

**Miss Bégin:** Is it to confuse the issue deliberately, in order that we will never know where the Conservative Party stands on medicare? Is that the idea? An additional \$500 million is an additional \$500 million. However one wants to fool around with the figures, it is an additional \$500 million that will increase the base of medicare, for years to come, by the way.

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### VIA RAIL

#### ANNOUNCED RESTORATION OF SERVICES

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport I will direct my question to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. In July, 1981, the Government, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, took steps to dismantle unilaterally 20 per cent of Canada's rail passenger service. The Speech from the Throne pledges to reinstate some of those services. Could the Prime Minister tell the House in what area of the country these services will be reinstated? What process will be followed in terms of the reinstatement of these services? Will the public have an opportunity for input? Will it be through the CTC, through legislation, or unilateral action by the Government? What form will these new services take? When can we expect them to be implemented?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I would be very happy to take notice of the question on behalf of the Minister.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I am surprised at the Prime Minister. If he showed any interest in the contents of the Speech from the Throne, or in VIA Rail passenger services, he would have certainly had an answer to a very legitimate question.

#### TIMING OF INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the President of the Privy Council, the Government House Leader. Inasmuch as VIA Rail lacks the clear legislative authority, and inasmuch as the legislation has been drafted on a number of occasions and, further, inasmuch as—

● (1440)

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Will the Hon. Member please ask his question?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Will the President of the Privy Council tell the House if in fact legislation is available to implement the changes contained in the Speech from the Throne? If so, when will the legislation be brought forward?

**Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to inform the Hon. Member of any legislation once I have discussed with the Minister of Transport the opportunity of introducing such legislation that is necessary in the House. We usually tell the Opposition in