

Oral Questions

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Speaker, this legislation has disappeared from the order paper. It was on the order paper. Can the hon. lady assure the House it will be back on the order paper during the present session as was promised in the Speech from the Throne.

[Translation]

Miss Bégin: Mr. Speaker, if there is an agreement on a new proposal, as for instance a lump payment, the proposition was to be implemented on April 1, 1978. So I hope that a new bill will be tabled in time for implementation.

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[English]

HEALTH

POSSIBILITY NEW BLOOD FRACTIONATION PLANT BUILT IN QUEBEC AND WORK DISCONTINUED AT CONNAUGHT LABORATORIES

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare relating to the fractionation of blood. Is it the policy of the government that a new blood fractionation plant will be built in Quebec either by the Armand Frappier Institute or the Red Cross and if so, in view of the fact that the government is allowing fresh frozen plasma to be exported to the United States for fractionation when it can be done in Canada by Connaught Laboratory, is it the intention of the government to discontinue the work being done by Connaught Laboratory in Toronto?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): As to the last part of the question, Mr. Speaker, it is not the policy of the government to interrupt the work of any group, either in private enterprise such as the Connaught Laboratory or of any private donor organization such as the Red Cross Society. As to the role of the Armand Frappier Institute, I will have to send the gentleman a detailed answer at a later time.

With regard to the general problem he has raised, the fractionation of blood is of great importance. I wish to clarify one thing, and I will reply in detail on this to my colleague. One blood element, called Factor VIII, which is of great importance in the treatment of haemophiliacs cannot be produced by the Connaught Lab. The Red Cross Society did give a contract to an American laboratory, Highland Laboratories. The Red Cross still provides the Connaught Laboratory in Canada with a lot of elements relating to the production of plasma and other elements needed in the treatment. I am sorry I do not know the technical words.

[Miss Bégin.]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REASON FOR DELAY IN COMMENCING ACTION TO FORCE INDIVERS TO DIVEST ITSELF OF VACHYD

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Eighteen months ago, the government refused to allow the takeover of a company called Canadian VacHyd by a Dutch firm called Indivers. Some 14 months later the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce finally gave directions to the Department of Justice to apply for a court order compelling Indivers to divest itself of its control of VacHyd. Some four months have gone by and no court action has been commenced and this is causing serious harm to VacHyd's business. It is a small Canadian company in fields involving both exports and high technology. When will the necessary court action be commenced to deal with this clear and definite case of non-compliance with an act of this parliament, the Foreign Investment Review Act and what is the explanation for the unconscionable delays to this date?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, my officials are in charge of the file. I cannot give the hon. member a precise date when an application may be taken. I understand there are some difficulties with those types of proceedings. When we are prepared to go to court, I will advise the hon. member.

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SOCIAL SERVICES

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL MEETING ON METHOD OF FUNDING—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It relates to the comment she made earlier in the question period that the reason there has been no meeting of federal and provincial welfare ministers with regard to the new social services act is that she has been unable to obtain agreement in principle for the federal proposals for block funding. Is it now the position of this government that federal-provincial meetings will only take place on those occasions where the provincial ministers have agreed in principle to terms dictated by the federal government, even in areas of concurrent jurisdiction? Is that what the new federalism is all about?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I do not pretend to be a constitutional expert. There are days when I am very pleased not to be one. In federal-provincial relations, I understand that the different partners in this case in the social services field, have to reach an agreement in the interest of the good of all Canadians. A counterproposal was made on September 15. I was appointed shortly after that. The provincial ministers studied, analysed and discussed the proposals and then met with their own provincial governments. One by one they started sending replies to Ottawa. I have not received replies from all the