

### CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

#### ALLEGED BIAS IN PROGRAM ON TRAPPERS' FESTIVAL AT THE PAS—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

**Mr. Cecil Smith (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State but in his absence I will direct it to the parliamentary secretary. During the 29th annual trappers' festival in The Pas, Manitoba, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation prepared a news documentary of the festival. In the opinion of The Pas town council, chamber of commerce, the festival committee, the chief and council of The Pas Indian band, as well as other northern residents, the program was malicious and deliberately distorted as to the actual facts of the festival and its bylaws. Will the minister take immediate action to have this serious charge investigated as the program made it appear to the general public that the volunteer workers of the trappers' festival were guilty of racial discrimination?

**Miss Coline Campbell (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I have been informed by the President of the CBC that he has received a number of letters from The Pas and at the present is having discussions with CBC program management. I will take notice of the hon. member's concern and get back to him on it.

#### REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION BY CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION COMMISSION OF PROGRAM "TWENTY-FOUR HOURS"

**Mr. Cecil Smith (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question to the Minister of Communications? The town council of The Pas has requested the CRTC to conduct an inquiry into the content of the CBC program Twenty-Four Hours that was aired on February 26, 1976 on the subject of The Pas 29th annual trappers' festival. Will the minister instruct the CRTC to establish whether the people of The Pas and the community in general have been unjustly maligned and accused?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I shall make a point of conveying the hon. member's representations to the CRTC, and I hope the hon. member will receive the answers he is looking for. As you know, Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to give directives to that control agency.

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[English]

### HEALTH

#### REASON FOR SELECTIVE VACCINATION AGAINST SWINE FLU

**Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the widespread anxiety and fear felt by parents because of the selective discrimination toward children who will not be vaccinated with the swine flu vaccine, may I ask the minister if it is the time factor that is involved in production which may result in a vaccine not as purified as that to which we have been accustomed in

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Canada? In other words, the time element might not allow sufficient purification to avoid reaction?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise the hon. member that the time element did not play any role at all in the consideration of the National Advisory Committee. The recommendation from the committee, which was endorsed by my department, was based purely on the adverse reaction to the vaccine that was encountered in children under 16 years of age. I would point out to the hon. member that, in a limited study in the United States, 36 per cent of children under five years of age given flu vaccine developed fevers of 103 degrees Fahrenheit or more and 10 per cent showed convulsions. It will be up to the physicians responsible for children, in view of the high risk, to decide whether the benefits of the vaccine exceed the risks involved.

**Mr. Rynard:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask why there would not be a selective classification for children and why ages 50 to 65 have been excluded for no reason that I can see?

**Mr. Lalonde:** First of all, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the children, this is a matter that will be left to the pediatrician involved. The National Advisory Committee said it was not recommended but it is up to the physician to make that decision in each instance. In other words, the advisory committee recommended against a general mass immunization of children. The committee did not recommend not giving the vaccine to people aged 50 to 65. What the committee did recommend was a certain priority order, the first priority being chronic disease cases and all people over 65; second, people of 20 to 50; and third, people between 50 and 65 and 16 and 20. Many people of 50 to 65 have antibodies from exposure to this flu between 1918 and 1930, and are less at risk than people of 20 to 50. However, these people can also get the vaccine if they are interested in receiving it.

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### REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

#### EFFECT OF INCREASED ENERGY COSTS ON DEVELOPMENT COSTS IN ATLANTIC PROVINCES—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Mr. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Has the minister made any assessments or does he plan any investigation into the effect that rising energy costs have on economic development projects in the Atlantic provinces and Quebec and does his budget now before us for approval pose an impediment to any remedial action?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, the department did indicate in the reports tabled last week that the increased cost of energy in the Atlantic region and in Quebec would create some problems for the industrial development and for the general economy in these parts of Canada. With regard to specific studies on the implications for certain industries,