

Oral Questions

only has difficulty coming up with a policy on medicare for his Party, but also has difficulty reading the facts.

Hon. W. Bennett Campbell (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Madam Speaker, the Minister of National Health and Welfare answered the question yesterday quite correctly when she said that there were no hospital premiums in the Yukon. What the Hon. Member for Provencher was talking about was medical care premiums which are charged by the Territorial Government of the Yukon at \$26.50 per family multiplied by 12, which gives him his figure of \$318. The Hon. Member should address his question to the Territorial Government which, I understand, is also a Conservative Government.

PAYMENT OF HOSPITAL LEVIES

Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher): Madam Speaker, I thank the Minister for that answer. Could he then answer this question? Why is it that the federal Government, which owns and controls all of the hospitals in the Territory, has made an arrangement that it will not neither give a tax base or sufficient revenue, but rather that those levies can be made and in fact its federal hospitals are sustained in part through premiums?

Hon. W. Bennett Campbell (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Madam Speaker, it is very easy to distort the facts.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Campbell (Cardigan): The Hon. Member is talking about medical care premiums, which I remind him are being charged by doctors and being condoned by the Government of the Yukon.

REQUEST FOR INTRODUCTION OF NEW TAX RÉGIME

Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher): Madam Speaker, could I ask the Minister, then, now that he has confirmed that federal hospitals are in fact partially sustained by levies, if he would indicate whether he would do the same thing which this Government did, which was that, having imposed entry fees for admission into the Yukon hospitals for years and years, it finally dropped them in 1981, not for philosophical or policy reasons but rather because the revenues received were less than the cost of the administration of the program?

● (1130)

Would the Government now undertake a tax régime in that Territory in order to remove the necessity of sustaining the hospitals through monthly premiums, and having done that would it then be willing to discuss medicare on that basis in other jurisdictions as well?

Hon. W. Bennett Campbell (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is complicating the issue more and more. First of all, hospitals are not being sustained by premiums. The Yukon system is a non-premium system. The medicare system, where doctors perform services for

patients in hospitals, is where the premiums are being applied by the Government. I said that very simply in the first answer.

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CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY

EXPLORATION PERMITS ISSUED BY FRANCE

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs who confirmed to me, in response to a question I raised on September 30, that negotiations between Canada and France over France's sovereignty claim in the St. Pierre and Miquelon area have broken down. How many exploration permits for oil and gas have been issued by France within our exclusive economic zone outside St. Pierre's territorial zone?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, there is a disputed zone. At present negotiations between Canada and France have not resulted in a resolution of that difficulty. The Hon. Member asks what licences have been issued by France in that disputed zone, which is not the territorial sea to which he refers. I do not have the facts on that but I will find out if any, and let him know.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, I cannot use it as evidence, but I have a map showing the number of permits issued outside the 12-mile territorial zone and inside Canada's exclusive economic zone. Why did the Government allow those permits to be issued by another sovereign country, inside Canada's exclusive economic zone?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): I presume the Hon. Member is referring to the disputed zone adjacent to St. Pierre and Miquelon in which France has claimed a very extensive area, and which we dispute. That is the subject of negotiations. Canada certainly has not and will not acknowledge the claims made by the French Government.

The Hon. Member asks why have we not prevented the Government of France from doing this. I think on reflection he will find that is something beyond the reach of the Government of Canada.

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ENERGY

EXPORT PRICE OF NATURAL GAS

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who, once again, is in the House but not in his seat. If we could divert him from the campaign trail, possibly we could direct his attention to his Ministry.