

SOCIAL WELFARE

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF QUEBEC PROVINCIAL POLICIES

Mr. Pierre Gimaiel (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. This morning, the Minister met her Quebec counterpart, Mr. Marois, who is responsible for social development policies in Quebec. This meeting followed a recent announcement by the Premier that the welfare policies would be changed in Quebec to provide work for young people.

Since the federal Government pays at least 50 per cent of the cost of Quebec welfare programs and even more because of equalization, I would like to ask the Minister what resulted from her meeting with Mr. Marois this morning, and what are these major initiatives which the Quebec Premier did not mention when he announced the new social welfare policy for Quebec?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I will let Minister Marois announce himself, since he so wishes, the details of the projects which he discussed in general terms with me this morning. I can confirm that I told him after this meeting, where he showed a very good spirit of co-operation, which was a pleasant surprise, that we indeed pay 50 per cent of every dollar spent for welfare assistance, and that, whatever means Quebec wants to take to help people on welfare, as long, and this seems to be the case, as the rights of welfare recipients are respected, and that everything is done on a voluntary basis, that all the usual rules apply and that no cheap labour is created, we shall be very happy to continue to pay 50 per cent of the costs of the Quebec social welfare plan.

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● (1450)

[English]

NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

GENEVA TALKS BREAKDOWN—REQUEST THAT CANADA REFUSE CRUISE MISSILE TESTING

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. It concerns the tragic breakdown yesterday of the Geneva talks. He has said repeatedly in the House that the problem in Geneva was not a lack of proposals but the lack of a good political climate. Of course, now that political climate has taken a turn for the worse.

Would the Minister not agree with George Kennan, the former U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union, that a dramatic move is needed to break the stalemate? Would the Minister not make that dramatic move himself and help us get off of the nuclear treadmill in this world, by announcing, for exam-

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ple, that Canada will not test the Cruise missile in our country?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not think that that suggestion, if it were implemented, would have the effect that the Hon. Member desires. The negotiations have broken off in Geneva, and that is very regrettable. However, the Soviet Union has known for four years now that, if an agreement was not reached at the talks, deployment would take place. That is what is about to happen.

The Soviet Union has taken the view at the Geneva talks that it ought to have a monopoly of land based intermediate missiles in Europe. Since the beginning of the negotiations, the Soviet Union itself has deployed 100 SS-20s in Europe. It seems to me that for Canada to say at this stage that we will not test the Cruise would have no effect and would likely confirm the Soviet Union's view that it ought to have a monopoly of land based intermediate missiles in Europe. It wishes to deploy all of these missiles and give the U.S. nothing. Therefore, the Hon. Member ought to understand that that problem has to be tackled, and it would not be helped very much but by what I would consider not only useless but dangerous gestures by Canada at the present time.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Halton.

Mr. Nystrom: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair recognizes the Hon. Member for Halton.

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TOURISM

EFFECT OF TAX IMPOSED ON PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL PRODUCED IN UNITED STATES

Mr. Otto Jelinek (Halton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. I am sure that he knows that there have been over 70,000 jobs lost in the tourist industry in Canada in the first six months of this year alone. This is primarily due to the Government's taxation policies, which have virtually been pricing this vital sector out of business.

Instead of taking initiatives by way of tax rebates and other positive measures, why has he resorted to counterproductive protectionist tactics, such as a recently implemented 9 per cent tax on American material destined for Canadian markets? Can he justify the creation of this latest obstacle to the tourist industry in Canada?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Hon. Member could care to be more specific about the 9 per cent tax to which he is referring. I would