

HEALTH

METHOD BY WHICH GOVERNMENT WILL HONOUR
COMMITMENT TO HIGH STANDARD OF CARE IF PROVINCES
UNABLE TO BEAR COSTS

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question to the right hon. Prime Minister is based on my party's commitment to see that Canadians have the best medical and health care services in the world. In view of the statement issued recently by the provinces and today by the Canadian Medical Association that medical and health care services in Canada will deteriorate rapidly if the federal government persists in its present course, I would ask the right hon. Prime Minister if the provinces simply cannot bear the fiscal burdens imposed by the federal ceiling, how does the government intend to honour its commitment relating to a high standard of medical health care services for all Canadians?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. With respect to the hon. member, that seems to be a hypothetical proposition.

Mr. Grafftey: A supplementary question. In order to maintain a high standard of medical health care services in this country, I would ask the right hon. Prime Minister if he will start practising co-operative federalism with the provinces and not face them with an ultimatum, a unilateral approach, to such a very delicate federal-provincial matter?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member would want me to remind him that there is nothing unilateral in our approach on this. We have been discussing the question of increasing costs, costs increasing more rapidly than the gross national product, with the provinces over a period of a few years. They, of course, know and I think they share, a desire to make sure that these costs are kept under control. There is nothing unilateral in our approach.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: On the precise measures taken in the budget, I would also remind the hon. member that twice at interprovincial conferences—at the meeting they had last summer and the summer before—they practically implored the federal government to give leadership in fighting inflation. They indicated in advance that they would be prepared to co-operate with us in measures to control inflation.

I repeat, the government has, through the Minister of Finance and the Minister of National Health and Welfare, indicated that this is not limiting health services or health care. Escalation will continue and we are just making sure that the rate of escalation will be brought under control. Surely, this is a desire any hon. member opposite must share, that of bringing all costs under control.

Mr. Grafftey: A further supplementary. Do I understand that the right hon. Prime Minister has informed the House that the inflation fight will include letting health care services in this country deteriorate?

An hon. Member: No.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Oral Questions

SUGGESTED RENEGOTIATION OF MEDICARE AGREEMENTS
WITH PROVINCES

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): I would ask the Prime Minister when the provinces were informed about these budgetary considerations or has co-operative federalism virtually been abandoned? Will the Prime Minister show proper leadership and renegotiate a far-sighted medicare package with the provinces immediately?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, on the precise budgetary measures, of course this government did not consult with the provinces. If it had I am sure we would be blamed by the other side for letting out budget secrets.

● (1430)

As to the question of controls and to bring under control estimated costs and open-ended programs, I repeat, we have discussed this with the provinces for at least two years. The House was informed of these various federal-provincial conferences and, I hope that we will have the support of the opposition, at least for the principle of bringing costs under control, including those in areas mentioned by the hon. member.

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FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW ACT

DATE OF PROCLAMATION OF PART II

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. A number of weeks ago the minister told the House that proclamation of Part II of the Foreign Investment Review Act dealing with new investment would soon be discussed by cabinet. Could the minister tell the House whether the government has now decided when Part II of the act will be proclaimed and, if so, what that date will be?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, this question is presently being considered by my colleagues and I hope to be able to make a statement in the near future.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REASON FOR CONSIDERING ADMISSION OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF PALESTINIAN LIBERATION
ORGANIZATION TO ATTEND TORONTO CONFERENCE

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. As the Prime Minister has indicated that the government, even after several cabinet sessions, is unable to make up its mind whether to allow PLO representatives to come to Canada and take part in the crime conference in Toronto in September, and as the PLO bases its mode of operation on organized terror and the killing of innocent civilians, how can the government even consider allowing such an