

## Oral Questions

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I suggest the intention was to incorporate certain sentences in the Speech from the Throne to explain the activities of the board. These explanations were not intended to limit in any way the responsibilities and powers of the board. It is unfortunate that someone reading the Speech from the Throne may have inferred that the purpose was to limit the board's terms of reference. I have insisted that it was absolutely out of the question, indicating that I wanted to see the board cope with all sorts of assignments.

I feel that within its terms of reference, there is much the board can achieve. Its terms of reference need not be extended to make it more active.

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## HEALTH

## SUGGESTED USE OF WINE IN PLACE OF MILK

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Since the recent increase in milk prices, ministers have suggested different measures to Canadian consumers. The Minister of Agriculture has advocated drinking wine instead of milk because it is cheaper. For the same reason, the Minister of National Health and Welfare has recommended drinking powder milk. Does he think it is as nourishing as natural milk and could he tell us how to have newborn babies drink wine instead of natural milk?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** As minister responsible for the status of women, I will consider the second part of the hon. member's question.

As to the first part, Mr. Speaker, I never did recommend anything, I just said what my family and I do to reduce the price of our milk consumption.

[English]

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Minister of Agriculture rises on a point of order.

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, if I heard the hon. member correctly—and if I did not I apologize—I think he suggested that I suggested that wine could take the place of milk. I never suggested that at any time. No one in his right mind would suggest that wine could take the place of milk. I did say, however, according to some surveys which have been taken, that wine could do some good for people who suffer from iron deficiency.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Whelan:** It also contains Vitamin C and I think Timothy said, if you look in the good book, that wine is good for your stomach and other ailments from which you

[Mr. McGrath.]

might suffer. I also said that wine and beer could be made easier than milk. No scientist nor engineer has yet invented anything better than a cow which can transfer roughage into a healthful food on which man could sustain life if necessary.

[Translation]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I must allow, I am sure, the hon. member for Témiscamingue to ask at least a supplementary.

**Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

A moment ago, the minister said that due to poverty he uses powder milk at home. Since the minister was saying this on a point of order, would he tell us whether he intends to suggest the use of powder wine?

[English]

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, the grape industry in Canada is very important as also is the wine industry. Wine is imported into this country in concentrated form and I have several reservations about that.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCIENCE COUNCIL ON  
IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH CARE AND INCREASE IN  
RESEARCH GRANTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi):** Mr. Speaker, within the last four years the Science Council recommended to the government the shake-up of the health care structure to improve medical and health care services to all Canadians and also recommended an increase in medical research funds. My question directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare is the following: because the delivery of medical and health care services has already collapsed for many low income Canadians and because many important research programs have already been cut, can we expect the minister in particular and the government in general to act immediately on these recommendations.

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will take the trouble to read the document I tabled in the House which is entitled: "A New Perspective on the Health of Canadians", he would find many recommendations that have been made along the line of those contained in the Science Council of Canada report.

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[English]

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE NO REDUCTION IN NATO FORCES

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Prime Minister. In light of the statement made by the Minister of National Defence that there will be a reduction in numbers of the Canadian armed forces, will the Prime Minister give this House assurance that he will not take any steps next week while