

*Oral Questions***CANADA PENSION PLAN**

ELIGIBILITY FOR DISABILITY BENEFITS

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the stand-in for the Minister of Health.

Ms. Copps: A stand-in?

Mr. Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek): I do not intend to muddy the waters further.

My question is for the stand-in for the Minister of Health who will know that a small number of Canadians left their jobs some years ago but have not been able to apply for disability pensions because their applications, once received, have been deemed to have been late.

Would the Minister consider amending the Act in order to enable these deserving and needy Canadians, who have paid into the Canada Pension Plan for a number of years but whose applications have been denied for late filing, to apply and receive what they have coming to them?

Ms. Copps: No stand-in; it is a lie-down.

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Acting Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to lie down as suggested by my hon. colleague on the other side. On the contrary, that used to be the habit of the former Government.

I thank my hon. colleague for his very important question. As he knows, and as he has mentioned, I am standing in for the Minister of National Health and Welfare who is presently at the World Health assembly in Geneva. I will bring the specifics of this very important question to the Minister's attention immediately upon his return on Monday.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

QUERY WHETHER GOVERNMENT READY TO RECALL CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES FROM PARIS

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. At the present time, Canada does not have an ambassador in Paris. Meanwhile, it seems the former ambassador is trying to get elected.

In this case, would the Government be prepared to call back its Chargé D'affaires in Paris to show the French that we take this incident seriously, that we will not tolerate this and that this act of piracy is an insult to Canadians?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have already advised the French Government of Canada's reaction and protest. We have already

suspended scheduled talks on mediation. We are protecting the interests of people of Newfoundland and other Canadians. We are here to protect Canadian interests, not to play a public relations game.

QUERY WHETHER PRIME MINISTER PREPARED TO CANCEL VISIT TO FRANCE

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, if the Government is so serious about protecting Canadian interests and about showing the French that we take this incident seriously, is the Prime Minister prepared to cancel his visit to France which will be sometime in May, in fact on May 26? Or are you afraid of offending the French and more interested in protecting the image of the Prime Minister during his visit to France?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the answer is, briefly, no, because I think it is very important for us to keep all options open for influencing the opinion of the French government. But there is another issue, Mr. Speaker: Why do we have this problem today? We have this problem because a treaty signed by the Liberal Government in 1972 gave the French jurisdiction over the waters in question. That was one of the Liberal Government's achievements. It is just one more problem created in this country by the Liberal Party. We are now trying to find ways to solve a problem that was created by the Liberal Government.

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[English]

FILM DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY

ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY—CANADIAN MARKET

Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications. In February, 1987, she said that the ability of Canadians to talk to each other would never be negotiable. At the time the proposed policy was that Canadian industry would be guaranteed 15 per cent of the market. We find with the newly announced policy that the industry now has to compete in a bidding war with multinationals for 15 per cent of its own market.

Was it complaints from the Canadian film industry that made her change her mind?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I do want to say that I am in a rather magnanimous mood today. I am not even going to say to the members of the Opposition, "I told you so". But I want to assure the House that the way in which the policy announcements that I made yesterday were received by the industry is indicative of the support that it is giving to this approach.