

Oral Questions

Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, first of all, Justice Krever has conducted a thorough study of our blood system. In his interim report, he said it was as safe as any system in the world.

Of course we intend to make it the safest system in the world. We did not wait for Justice Krever's report to take our responsibilities very seriously. For instance, we inspect blood centres annually, and as you can see, this suspension came as a result of one of our inspections, and the Red Cross took certain steps in this instance.

Mrs. Pauline Picard (Drummond, BQ): Mr. Speaker, how can the minister claim she is doing a good job, when 15 months after she was appointed, we are still finding irregularities in Canada's blood system of such proportions that they justified suspending the director of the Quebec City centre?

[English]

Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it is not Health Canada that asked for the suspension of the director of the Canadian Red Cross in Quebec City. That was a decision of the Canadian Red Cross in Quebec City.

Health Canada has been doing its job in inspecting all facilities once a year. Every time it inspects a facility, it reports on any irregularities it may find and insists the Red Cross take action to correct them.

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ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice.

Recently on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Access to Information Act, the information commissioner identified serious problems with the act, recommended a full review and made recommendations for amendment. In 1987 the justice committee recommended 87 amendments to the act which were never acted upon by the previous government.

• (1440)

I want to ask the minister if he agrees with the commissioner's recommendation and will he order a full review and update of the act?

Hon. Allan Rock (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge the hon. member's longstanding interest in the field of information and privacy law. I assure him I am very much aware that the modernization of that law is long overdue.

The Department of Justice is already at work identifying areas where reform can be made. We are reviewing the recommendations from the "Open and Shut" report of 1987, as well as

recommendations from the commissioner's most recent annual report in which he made some very good suggestions.

We are examining ways modern information technology can render more effective and less expensive the release of government information. We are also looking at ways to involve the public in consultations.

The agenda before justice is busy. I assure the hon. member and the House we will be coming forward with reforms.

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IMMIGRATION

Mr. Art Hanger (Calgary Northeast, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, Bonjan Inthavon, a Laotian gang member with a violent criminal history, has been released into the Fraser Valley area in B.C. This thug had been ordered deported. Since the minister's department unbelievably granted him convention refugee status, it is now left to the minister to follow his own legislation to protect Canadian citizens.

Will the minister show some leadership and act immediately under section 19 of the existing legislation to have this criminal removed from the country, as his own officials have already recommended?

Hon. Sergio Marchi (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, my department did not grant refugee status to that individual or to anybody else. That is adjudicated by the IRB.

The recommendation by our officials to remove this individual according to this section of the act has not yet arrived on my desk. The moment it does I will have no problems acting on it whatsoever.

Mr. Art Hanger (Calgary Northeast, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian people are looking for assurances in this matter. On March 1 the IRB appeal division turned down Inthavong's appeal of his deportation order and declared his removal order valid in law, citing the importance of safety and good order of Canadian society. The individual can appeal even further.

Why does the minister not follow the law that gives him the obligation to remove people who, there are reasonable grounds to believe, will engage in acts of violence or are likely to participate in organized criminal activities?

Give the Canadian people the assurance that you will act when it falls on your desk—

The Speaker: Hon. members will always remember to address the Chair.

Hon. Sergio Marchi (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the member was too busy trying to figure out how to ask a question because I gave him the answer he was looking for in the first round.

I said very clearly that the file has yet to come from Vancouver to my desk. Over the weekend I asked for that file. I have