

*Oral Questions***MEDICAL CARE ACT**

CALL FOR AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT EXTRA BILLING—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Madam Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 43. In view of the fact that the government of Alberta has declared war on medicare in so far as extra billing by physicians is concerned, a practice that does violence to the Medical Care Act which is not only being tolerated by the Alberta government but is now being legitimized by institutionalizing it in the form of a panel which will ostensibly assess any complaints by patients and levy a tax on offending doctors; and whereas Premier Lougheed is reported to have stated that Alberta would resist a federal ban on extra billing to the point of doing without federal transfer payments, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Saskatoon East (Mr. Ogle):

That the salary of the Minister of National Health and Welfare be reduced to the federal minimum wage until such time as she introduces legislation in this House that would amend the Medical Care Act to prohibit extra billing and show Premier Lougheed and other medicare-bashers that the Government of Canada will not be intimidated or sucked into using medicare as another jurisdictional football in the ongoing federal-provincial games.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

CALL FOR REJECTION OF PROPOSED CBC-2 NETWORK—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. John Kushner (Calgary East): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. Whereas the CBC proposes to expand its operation in the form of CBC-2 and Télé-2 and Canadian taxpayers are already subsidizing the CBC to the tune of \$500 million per year, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Edmonton North (Mr. Paproski):

That this House rejects the CBC proposal for CBC-2 and Télé-2 until it shows it can at least be self-supporting as a result of providing programs that Canadians want and not what the CBC thinks we should be watching.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

● (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[*English*]

THE CONSTITUTION

POSITION OF BRITISH PARLIAMENT IF RESOLUTION CHALLENGED IN SUPREME COURT

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Can the Minister of Justice tell the House whether on or before November 10, 1980, the Secretary of State for External Affairs was told by Westminster that Westminster could not pass Canadian constitutional proposals if those proposals were being challenged in the Supreme Court of Canada?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development): Madam Speaker, I think the position of the British government was enunciated very clearly by the Prime Minister of England, Mrs. Thatcher, yesterday, that when it receives a resolution of the House of Commons and Senate of Canada it will act promptly.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, I suppose it is not surprising that the prime minister of another country would be misquoted in this House, since we cannot get straight answers as to government policy in Canada from the Canadian government.

The Minister of Justice neglected to answer my question, which was quite explicit. Did the Secretary of State for External Affairs receive on or before November 10, 1980, an indication that Westminster could not pass Canada's constitutional proposal if it was under challenge in the Supreme Court of Canada?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chrétien: Madam Speaker, the position of the government on that issue is clear. The Parliament of Canada is called upon to vote on a resolution aimed at patriating the Canadian Constitution. As soon as Parliament has completed its work, the result of many deliberations over several months in Canada, we will forward the request of the House of Commons and the Senate and, in keeping with precedents, traditions and obligations, the government of England has agreed to deal expeditiously with the request of the government and the Parliament of Canada.

[*English*]

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, I can only assume that when a minister of the Crown refuses explicitly to answer a very simple and direct question, it is because he has something to hide.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!