

S.O. 21

MEDICAL CARE

CONDEMNATION OF MINISTER'S ACTIONS

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Madam Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of the House the fact that today we have a Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) whose actions are threatening to destroy the medicare system. I bring to the attention of the House the fact that the Minister has gone one year without meeting with provincial counterparts, and refuses such meetings. I bring to the attention of the House that the Minister chose New York City in which to announce a major change in health policy, a change which would double-tax Canadians. I bring to the attention of the House that, in response to that announcement, Mr. Nielson, the Minister in British Columbia, threatened to pull that Province out of the medicare system.

● (1410)

I bring to the attention of the House that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), in an interview in *Le Devoir* last weekend, said:

[Translation]

—we risk the destruction of Medicare—

[English]

“We risk the destruction of the medicare system.” Those are the words of the Prime Minister to *Le Devoir*. We have a Minister of National Health and Welfare who refuses to recognize the federal nature of the country and, in so doing, brings the whole medicare system into question, which Canadians will never forgive.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GUATEMALA—PLIGHT OF MAYAN INDIANS

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Madam Speaker, under General Rios Montt, the Government of Guatemala continues to rage genocidal war against the Mayan Indians of that country. As a result of army activities against their villages, an estimated million Indians are internal refugees, while thousands more are crowded into refugee camps in Mexico. Recently the Guatemalan Government proclaimed a false amnesty and stopped military activity, but when people returned to their villages they had to register with both civilian and military officials and faced intensive questioning. Now many of these people face a process of selective assassination and torture.

In Canada the Assembly of First Nations presented information to the Department of External Affairs concerning sites where torture and mass executions have taken place. The time has come for Canada to abandon its policy of silent agreement with the Reagan line that the Guatemalan Government is only engaged in protecting the state from Marxist guerrillas. The killings and torture must be seen as a war of extermination

against the indigenous people of Guatemala, not as an extension of the East-West conflict. Canada must insist on a thorough international investigation, including visits to the sites where the atrocities are alleged to have taken place.

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POLITICAL PARTIES

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY—POLICY ON PEACE MOVEMENT

Mr. Denis Ethier (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, on Friday last week the Mulroney Tories made it very clear through their spokesman, the Hon. Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), that they are against all peaceful and democratic demonstration; they are against the peace movement.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Ethier: Do the Mulroney Tories know that peaceful demonstration is a fundamental right in our democratic system? Is this an indication of what a Mulroney government would do if ever given a mandate to govern? Would its first move be to abolish the right of peaceful and democratic demonstration? Since the Tories are given the respected title of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, it seems only reasonable that their Leader make a public statement on this issue and, while making such a statement, he could tell us where he stands on such issues as capital punishment, abortion, offshore resources, upgrading the rail system in western Canada, or the metric system, for that matter.

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CROWN CORPORATIONS

DOCTRINE OF MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Madam Speaker, one of the fundamental principles of representative democracy is that the Minister must be responsible and accountable for actions and/or lack of actions of those in his Ministry. In other words, if a Department or corporation becomes inefficient, careless and dishonest, deliberately or otherwise, the Minister must take the responsibility.

Senator Austin, the Minister responsible for CDIC, has blamed the Corporation President, who has now resigned, for the \$1.7 billion losses of Canadair and de Havilland Aircraft. The directors must share this responsibility, and the auditors' credibility is open to question, but most of all the Minister in charge must be held accountable for the gigantic loss of taxpayers' money.

Senator Austin inadvertently condemned himself when he said that the records “do not reveal the calibre of business shrewdness which we as shareholders should expect”. When did the Minister reach this conclusion? What did he do about the continuing losses? Why is he hiding the facts? Even yet the commercial details of the losses have not been put on the table.