

which made representations to the government today, indicating, first, that the money allocated for medical research in this year's estimate is completely inadequate, and, second, that the \$2 million increase announced by the Minister of National Health and Welfare on Tuesday will not meet the needs of medical research, can the minister indicate whether further consideration is being given to the needs of medical research for the coming year?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I would have thought that the Medical Research Council would have been very pleased with our granting another \$2 million, which would be a rather significant increase from last year, but of course the government cannot increase its grants to this or any other group in Canada because of the budgetary cutbacks.

[English]

Mr. Orlikow: It is interesting that the Minister of National Defence a few minutes ago indicated that there is a \$400 million increase for national defence this year and the President of the Treasury Board thinks that medical research should be satisfied and happy with \$2 million.

May I ask the President of the Treasury Board whether, in view of the repeated representations by researchers that the government's present stop and go policy for financing medical research destroys not only existing programs and future programs but helps to discourage potential medical researchers from going into the field, the minister can indicate if the government will give some consideration to the proposals made again this year by medical researchers that the government work out a five year funding program for medical researchers so that long range plans can be made?

● (1440)

Mr. Bob Kaplan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as the minister indicated at the last meeting of the health committee at which the medical research estimates were considered, he is proposing to look into the question of developing a long-term basis for determining the needs of medical research and the appropriate method of funding. As a matter of fact, the minister is meeting with representatives this afternoon at 3.30. He is looking forward to a discussion and to hearing their views.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

COMPARISON OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF OPEC COUNTRIES AND CANADA TO COMMON FUND ESTABLISHED AT UNCTAD CONFERENCE

Mr. Herb Breau (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, since the Secretary of State for External Affairs is absent, I would like to ask a question of his parliamentary secretary, if her voice has improved. Following the question of the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) yesterday about the UNCTAD conference and an alleged participation by the OPEC countries, I would like to ask the parliamentary secretary to indicate whether she is aware that

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the OPEC countries made a commitment to the common fund for the buffer stocks. If so, how does this commitment compare with the one Canada has made so far?

Miss Monique Bégin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity of using my improved voice to correct what I said yesterday to the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville and point out that during the UNCTAD IV conference in Nairobi the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) said that we were prepared to look favourably into the idea of a common fund. As for what the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville said about the contribution of the OPEC nations, I must say today that, as far as we know, these nations have not made any commitment to the common fund and that Canada did clearly announce its financial participation to a common fund for tin.

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[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

ALLEGED INTERVENTION OF SOLICITOR GENERAL TO HAVE MR. MARCHAND'S DRIVER'S LICENCE RESTORED—REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION

Mr. Jim Balfour (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. Will the minister explain to the House the basis for his communications to the National Parole Board on behalf of his colleague, the Minister of the Environment, which led to the lifting of the minister's driving suspension five and a half month's early?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, as I explained in the Justice Committee this morning, I made no such representations to the National Parole Board. The Minister of the Environment asked me if there was any procedure to have a licence suspension revoked. I said there was. He asked me for the criteria and the procedure, and I merely asked the Parole Board to send that procedure to the minister, which in fact was done.

An hon. Member: Oh, come on.

Mr. Allmand: I never knew that he made any application under that procedure, nor did I know that the board had been seized of it or that a decision was made until I read about it this morning.

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SOLICITOR GENERAL AND PAROLE BOARD RELATING TO RESTORATION OF MR. MARCHAND'S DRIVER'S LICENCE

Mr. Jim Balfour (Regina East): Will the Solicitor General table all documents and copies of correspondence in his possession relating to this entire matter in order that justice will not only be done, but will be seen to be done?

Mr. Trudeau: Why don't you put your gumshoes on? Why don't you hire a private investigator?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Paproski: Why don't you slide down a bannister?