

*Speaker's Ruling*

unchanged, I am a Canadian", said the Bloc Quebecois House leader on Thursday, "I am still a Canadian, I still have my Canadian passport and, in the end, I will probably remain a Canadian".

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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[English]

**HEALTH**

**Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. On December 10 I asked the minister—I will wait until the House quiets down a minute.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member will please put his question.

**Mr. Karpoff:** On December 10 I asked the minister whether he would uphold the Canada Health Act in respect of deterrent user fees planned by the Government of Quebec for people using hospital emergency wards. At the time the minister said that he would ensure that the principles of the Canada Health Act would be fully respected and that he would communicate this to Quebec.

My question for the minister is this. Since the Quebec minister of health made it clear yesterday that he was proceeding with the introduction of deterrent user fees, can the minister tell the House if he did inform Quebec that these fees are a violation of the Canada Health Act and will he inform the House how he intends to enforce the Canada Health Act now?

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, Quebec is well aware of the provisions of the Canada Health Act. As the hon. member knows, following the proposals made by Minister Côté in Quebec, the federal government got in touch with the Government of Quebec to request more information.

• (1500)

The minister in Quebec has indicated that he believes that what he is doing can be done within the confines of the Canada Health Act. The ball is in Quebec's court to demonstrate that it can be done.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Hamilton East on a single question.

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**PROSTITUTION**

**Ms. Sheila Coppins (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my single question to the Prime Minister. It is in response to the ridiculous answers that his Minister of Justice gave to the opposition's suggestion that 15-year old prostitutes should be given help to get off the street.

I would like to ask the Prime Minister to give us his view of whether in fact he supports the position of the Minister of Justice that there should be no federal assistance to help get street prostitutes off the street, or whether in fact he rejects the position tabled by his minister on the first—

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the question is: Do I support the position of the Minister of Justice, as described by the Leader of the Opposition? No.

Do I support the position of the Minister of Justice, as articulated by the Minister of Justice? Yes.

Apart from the sensitivity and knowledge that the Minister of Justice conveyed in her responses, she also conveyed an intention of the Government of Canada to work very carefully with the Government of British Columbia, other provincial governments, and the municipalities, to make certain that as a society, since it is an important societal problem, Canadians make progress to ensure that this problem is dealt with in an effective way.

That is what the Minister of Justice said. That is the policy of this government. And that is what we are going to do.

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**POINT OF ORDER****ESTIMATES—SPEAKER'S RULING**

**Mr. Speaker:** On Friday, March 8, 1991, the hon. member for Ontario rose on a point of order to object to the inclusion of items in the Supplementary and Main Estimates which would authorize the payment of \$153 per diem allowance to senators. He argued that the authority to pay such an allowance should have been sought by means of an amendment to the Parliament of Canada Act. He quoted extensive authority to the effect