

*Oral Questions*

Could the Prime Minister tell us if his government agrees with this position? And if so, does it intend to withdraw from areas of jurisdiction in which it is interfering through its spending power, notably education, culture, health and manpower training?

**Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, this document has been issued collectively by all members of the coalition. That is clear as day. However, before attacking us on this kind of thing, because this is a written document, Bloc Quebecois members should start by— When you see their leader crisscross Quebec with his magic wand in hand and come out with a statement like: “I am for sovereignty pure and simple; we will not even need Canadian citizenship or Canadian passports”.

That same afternoon, he said: “Well, no, we will negotiate a partnership”, but later qualified his statement. He was not so categorical any more. He was apologetic. That is in essence how the week started off, with all this talk about being among ourselves, francophones, people of colour, with women bearing more children and so on. Later in the week, they changed their tune once again. That is what really happened.

They do not want to tell people the truth. We, on the other hand, put our position in writing.

A moment ago, I asked the hon. member for Roberval if he wanted to remain a Canadian. Let me put the same question to the hon. member: Does she want to remain a Canadian or would she rather abandon Canada completely? She should answer this question, so that her constituents know where to stand come October 30.

**Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, will the Prime Minister tell us clearly whether or not his government intends to withdraw from Quebec's areas of responsibility such as education, health, manpower training and regional development and to fully compensate Quebec through tax point transfers?

**Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, education comes under the full responsibility of Quebec's Minister of Education.

I am happy that the matter was raised because he should do a good job. Quebec has the highest dropout rate in the country. This has nothing to do with the policy governing transfer payments. The policy is exactly the same for all provinces, including Quebec. Why are there more dropouts in Quebec? They should start by dealing with that problem.

Provinces have complete control over the hospital sector. We do not do a thing in that area, except send money. If they want us to stop collecting taxes and sending money, we can, but that is not what they want, of course.

They do not want to do the dirty job of collecting taxes. They want us to do it and to send them a blank cheque.

• (1145)

However, we have national responsibilities. The federal government is the one providing a national health care system to which all Canadians have equal access, instead of what some provinces would like to put in place at this time, that is to say, one system for the rich and one system for the poor. It is thanks to the Canadian government that we have a national health care system ensuring that all Quebecers as well as all other Canadians have equal access to health care. Under this system, when you are sick, you can be admitted to a hospital not because you have money but because you are a Canadian. It is a simple as that.

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[English]

**PORNOGRAPHY**

**Mr. Monte Solberg (Medicine Hat, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, the National Film Board funded movie “Léolo” features a scene in which a child engages in an act of bestiality. As reprehensible as that is, it is made even more so by the fact that Canadian taxpayers have helped to fund this movie and that it was shown on Canada's public broadcaster across the country, the CBC.

Could the Minister of Canadian Heritage explain why he thinks this reflects Canadian culture and Canadian values and why in the world Canadian taxpayers are paying for that kind of garbage?

**Ms. Albina Guarnieri (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Canadian Heritage, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for the question and for providing notice.

The issue of government funding for independent agencies is a thorny one. Certain artistic expression, while it may appeal to some, is clearly offensive to others. The film in question which aired on the CBC at 11.30 p.m. was produced under the former government. I understand it contained some controversial images.

However, I think even the member can appreciate that the CBC, with the airing of NFB and Telefilm movies, will allow the public to judge the works on their merit.

**Mr. Monte Solberg (Medicine Hat, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, I am not surprised the government is trying to justify this. I knew it would try to wrap this in the cloak of an artistic film. However, the great majority of Canadians would never let that kind of trash in their houses under any circumstances. It has been permitted in under the CBC.