

*Oral Questions*

• (1450)

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT—CONSENSUS RESOLUTION ON  
MIDDLE EAST**

**Mr. Lee Richardson (Calgary Southeast):** Mr. Speaker, in view of Canada's support for the consensus resolution on the Middle East at the recent Francophone Summit, will the Secretary of State for External Affairs advise the House regarding Canada's position on direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries?

Does the Secretary of State believe that the holding of elections in the Gaza and the West Bank could be a step forward in the process of reconciliation between Israel and the Palestinians?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, there are two points that I would like to make. First, the Hon. Member referred to the consensus resolution at the Francophone Summit. I think it is worth recording that Canada participated actively in forming that consensus, and indeed I think it could be said that as a result of our actions at that summit the resolution appears in the relatively moderate form that it does.

Second, on the question of elections, we believe that the proposal by Mr. Shamir is a small but significant step forward. We think that there needs to be more precision. It would help if there were a specification of the conditions under which elections could occur. We think it is an important beginning that should be built upon by all parties.

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**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY****WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL SUPPORT OF CENTRE**

**Mr. Robert D. Nault (Kenora—Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. In the April 17, 1978 debate in this House, the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety received all-Party support. In fact, the then labour critic is quoted in *Hansard* as saying:

This Party supports the Bill because we believe that health and safety in the workplace are of vital importance.

Based on this information, why does the Minister of Labour feel that the Government has to withdraw its

financial commitment from this centre which needs \$8 million annually to operate? Why is the Government killing this particular centre through financial strangulation?

**Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Hon. Member of the Liberal Party for asking this question about the CCOHS, which I think is an organization that has done a tremendous job over the past 10 years.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Corbeil:** We are certainly determined to see that the centre will continue operating because it has produced a kind of information and a product that is easily marketable. We feel that with the consent and concurrence of the Council of Governors, it will be able, over the next few years, to find all the necessary funding to ensure that this operation will continue.

**IMPACT OF CUT-BACKS ON CENTRE—GOVERNMENT  
POSITION**

**Ms. Beth Phinney (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, the loss of funding to the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety will undoubtedly result in financial stress and possibly in closure.

My question is for the Minister of Labour. Is he aware that the centre had planned to expand its information systems to include environmental pollutants? Given the importance the Prime Minister has placed on the environment, how can the Minister justify this \$8 million cut to the centre?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday afternoon, the Government of which I am a member is proud of its funding of CCOHS in recent years. I would like to point out that in the six years the Centre operated under the Liberal Government, funding provided by the government of the time amounted to \$3 million annually. During the five years this Government has been in power, annual funding has been increased to \$8 million. I think these figures are self-explanatory, Mr. Speaker, and that they demonstrate the interest this Government has in the Centre. In fact, we are absolutely convinced that the quality of the product it offers will enable the Centre to become self-financing without any problem within the next few years.