

*Oral Questions***SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME**

**Mr. George Proud (Hillsborough):** Madam Speaker, the month of October has been declared Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Month. SIDS is the leading single cause of death in Canada for babies between one week and one year of age.

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome has taken the lives of an estimated 12,000 infants in Canada since 1973. Twelve thousand children are dead and have left behind grieving parents and frustrated doctors and nurses with no answer as to why these apparently healthy babies have died without warning.

The Canadian Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths will be holding its annual National Babies Breath Conference in Atlantic Canada for the first time in 10 years. This conference will be held in Charlottetown and will provide volunteer SIDS parents and professionals alike with practice and assistance for their work with grieving families. Together we can work to find the answer and stop future deaths.

With the information that she has provided, I will seek out the information for her and get back to her as soon as I can. Without that notice, I do not think it is fair for her to expect that ministers would have all that information in the tops of their heads.

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** I would expect that the senior ministers of the government would be apprised of a Canadian woman whose family believes she is being held hostage in Lebanon when the Canadian government was originally contacted in writing about this issue on November 8, 1985.

The Department of External Affairs is very aware of this issue. I want to ask the government again: Why is it when Henriette Haddad, a Canadian woman, was taken hostage on September 26, 1985, that the Canadian government has not even answered her son's letters asking for its help in this case?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade):** Madam Speaker, as the hon. member knows, I am not the Secretary of State for External Affairs. If the Secretary of State for External Affairs were here, and if my friend is correct in what she says, then the Secretary of State for External Affairs would know about this information and would be able to provide a response.

I am unable to do so without the notice which normally is given on something as detailed as that.

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Madam Speaker, the notice has been given by the Haddad family. This woman's 87-year-old husband is sitting in a Montreal nursing home waiting for news of his wife. Her son has been in direct contact with the Department of External Affairs pleading for their help. Indirectly they have told him that they have not acted in this case because this woman holds dual citizenship.

Given the minister's apparent ignorance about the file today, will the government—

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** The hon. minister may want to answer. I think the hon. member has been told on two different occasions now that the minister does not have the answer to the question. I do not think that talking about the ignorance is helping in any way.

The hon. minister.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[*Translation*]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. This morning, I spoke to Constantin Haddad, the son of a Canadian woman who was taken hostage in Lebanon in 1985. Her son first contacted the Canadian government in November 1985, and since that time he has received no written reply from the government about this Canadian hostage who is still in Lebanon. Why does the government refuse to do anything to help a Canadian hostage in Lebanon?

[*English*]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade):** Madam Speaker, I say to the hon. member that if she had given the government notice of this question we would have been able to get the information, get the details and give her a full answer.