

*Oral Questions*

agreement as between the federal Government and the provinces whereby the federal Government reimburses to the province the per capita costs in relation to the education of such students.

The objective of the agreement in question is to shift more control in that respect to the local Indian band.

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**HEALTH****AIDS DISEASE—COST OF AZT DRUG—SITUATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

Is the Prime Minister aware that while people across the country are dying from AIDS, British Columbia is the only province that refuses to pay the total cost of AZT, which is the only drug available to treat those suffering from this dreadful disease?

Given the fact that all other provinces have agreed to provide this drug free of charge to those suffering from AIDS, and given the fact that one year ago in this House the Minister of National Health and Welfare indicated that AZT should be covered under our universal health care system, I would ask that the Prime Minister personally contact the Premier of B.C. to request that AZT be made available free of charge to AIDS patients in that province.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Health and Welfare is out of the country at the moment. Certainly I shall get in touch with him on an urgent basis to inquire into this matter.

The Hon. Member raises a very important matter, one that requires a compassionate response, and as such I will be happy to look into it immediately and advise her.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Vancouver East, on a supplementary.

**FUNDING OF FEDERAL CENTRE FOR AIDS**

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Prime Minister for his response and for his assistance on this urgent matter. Hopefully, he will make inquiries of the Premier of British Columbia in this regard.

I would also ask the Prime Minister to inform the House as to when the Federal Centre for AIDS, which is being starved for funds, will receive the \$139 million which was requested of Cabinet. It is funding which is urgently needed for this essential service.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am unaware of any obstacle to the normal progression of that request through the approval process. The very

important commitment made by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, both in terms of research and care in this important area, will be respected fully. We view this as a most important societal problem, and one deserving of urgent action and the urgent devotion of national resources.

The Minister of National Health and Welfare has made significant statements and commitments in this respect in the House of Commons, and I can say, on behalf of the Government, that all such statements and commitments will be respected.

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**HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES****PRESENCE OF FREON IN PAM**

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to return to the answer the Minister of Labour gave to my colleague regarding the use of freon in Pam. I would ask the Minister to reconsider the policy he described of not insisting that freon be removed from Pam.

We know already that three young children have died from the effects of inhaling freon.

The Minister has given the Government's rationale for its policy of not insisting on its removal, that being that the product is not dangerous when used as it should be.

Well, children do not know that, obviously. They see it in the kitchen, and they assume that it can be used without mortal danger, in a way that the product label describes—which many of them, of course, cannot read.

**An Hon. Member:** Even soap suds are dangerous when not used properly!

**Mr. Kaplan:** We have seen the results of the present policy. Surely the Minister realizes that it is a policy that has failed. In the light of what has happened, I would again ask the Minister to reconsider the policy in respect of the use of freon in Pam.

**Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, the point has to be made that the deaths in question came about as a result of the misuse of a product which, when used properly, would not necessarily cause harm to the user.

**An Hon. Member:** It kills the ozone layer.

**Mr. Cadieux:** Educational programs emphasizing the danger of misuse and abuse of this product will be encouraged.

[*Translation*]

**YOUNG CHILDREN—MINISTER'S POSITION**

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, although the United States is not as advanced as we are in this respect, it is their policy to remove freon from Pam. Doesn't the Minister