

Oral Questions

these Kanesatake residences are illegally occupied and the minister is aware of that.

Will the minister confirm that those who illegally and forcefully occupy these federal properties will be excluded from the waiting lists and that these lists will only contain the names of those who fully complied with the law?

[English]

Hon. Ron Irwin (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, this is the same question that was just put to me. It is identical.

One hundred and seventy-eight people have been assessed. Houses have been allocated. Three or four south of 344 are causing us problems, but that is nothing like the problem I inherited. We all inherited Oka which wasted \$230 million of Quebec and federal government money.

This is a much better way to deal with the problem, not to aggravate it but to negotiate in good faith and solve it.

[Translation]

Mr. Claude Bachand (Saint-Jean, BQ): Mr. Speaker, the minister knows that some properties are still illegally occupied in Kanesatake. He is not answering our questions.

Following the discussions he had with his negotiator, Michel Robert, can the minister tell us if the allocation of the residences bought by the federal government will take place in the near future and in compliance with the criteria set by the government?

[English]

Hon. Ron Irwin (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I will answer the question directly. If my friend wants to be positive, he should go to the Quebec government and have the Quebec government recognize the peacekeepers at Oka.

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HEALTH

Mrs. Diane Ablonczy (Calgary North, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister of Finance is with regard to the new Canada health and social transfer.

The CHST states that health care transfers to provinces may be reduced or cut off whenever the Minister of Health "is satisfied" that a province is not in line with her own interpretation of the Canada Health Act. The cabinet then gets to decide how much funding is cut from the province. This sounds like a recipe for arbitrary command from Ottawa.

Why is the formula of funding reductions not based on an impartial formula laid out in the law?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development—Quebec, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we made it very clear that the new social transfer would incorporate the principles of the Canada Health Act. Indeed, it is those principles and those principles alone that will govern. There is no discretion. It is the Canada Health Act and that is the covenant of this government.

Mrs. Diane Ablonczy (Calgary North, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, it makes no sense for the government to claim that the best way to maintain the standards in the Canada Health Act is by cutting off funding every time a province tries to innovate. The Minister of Health will have the power to arbitrarily yank the plug on federal health care spending.

Can she explain to this House how this is supposed to improve the quality of health care in Canada?

Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the Canada Health Act remains as is. It has not nor is it meant to prevent innovation. It is meant to preserve and maintain those principles which have served Canadians very well, which Canadians expect and indeed deserve to have to protect them.

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● (1435)

[Translation]

TURKEY

Mr. Jean H. Leroux (Shefford, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Last Friday, the government repeated that Canada was very concerned about the Turkish military offensive against the Kurds in northern Iraq and said that it would meet with the Turkish ambassador regarding the issue. Today, there is every indication that Turkey firmly intends to carry on with its forays.

Will the minister confirm whether Canada has indeed raised this issue with other NATO members, as the Minister of National Defence led us to believe last week, and will he tell us what measures Canada and NATO intend to take to make Turkey see reason?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. member's question, I can say that we have not done so.

Mr. Jean H. Leroux (Shefford, BQ): Mr. Speaker, if the minister wants to be taken seriously, at a time when it has come to light that civilians have been hurt in the Turkish offensive, does he intend to refer the matter to the UN's Security Council and to immediately suspend all negotiations regarding the sale of our CF-5 jets to Turkey?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I have already said in this House that we were only at the preliminary stages of negotiating the sale of these airplanes and that a number of countries or potential buyers