

Oral Questions

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, whenever the opposition Parties are ready to sit down and work out an agreement in an intelligent and orderly fashion, we will be prepared to do so.

[Translation]

QUERY WHETHER ANOTHER BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, does the Minister agree that the statement made by Mr. Bouchard, in Lac-Saint-Jean, for political reasons, is in conflict with the facts as stated here in the House by the Deputy House Leader, to whom we have made this proposal three times, but to no avail? Will another bill be submitted to the Opposition Parties by June 30?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the Deputy Prime Minister has already given an answer to the question concerning the tabling of a bill. As for the situation in Lac-Saint-Jean, I think that my friend will be interested to know that the Hon. Lucien Bouchard, the Conservative candidate in the Lac-Saint-Jean riding, is financing his election campaign in accordance with the formula accepted by the people and the Government of Quebec many years now, that is public financing. He does not accept contributions from corporations or labour unions.

The New Democrats might want to take note of that.

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● (1450)

[English]

HEALTH

FOOD IRRADIATION REGULATIONS—REVIEW PROCESS

Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. As the Minister knows, new regulations regarding food irradiation were gazetted this week which will provide for applications to irradiate food to be reviewed on a case by case basis.

While a few of the recommendations in the report of the Standing Committee on Consumer and Corporate Affairs were included in the regulations, many were not.

Given the real public concern and scepticism about the whole issue of food irradiation, would the Minister once again consider a major recommendation of that report that a consultative panel, including scientists and consumer representatives as well as government officials, be established to review and advise the Minister on any submissions to irradiate food, so that the public will be more confident and assured of the openness and independence of the review process?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member raised this issue in the report. We looked at it seriously when we responded to the report. The Department of National Health and Welfare, specifically the Health Protection Branch division, has within it professional chemists, nutritionists, microbiologists, toxicologists, and other professionals, including the radiation group, to deal with these issues.

We regularly get advice from outside groups. I think it is important that the regulatory process within the Department of National Health and Welfare remain intact for the Minister and for the scientific advice from the Department.

Although I know it is a repeat of the points which the Hon. Member and her committee made, at the moment I believe that we have in place a consultative process without formalizing it beyond what we now have.

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PUBLIC WORKS

BRIBERY ALLEGATION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and concerns the administration of the Department of Public Works. Yesterday, on CJOH television here in Ottawa, a promoter of a \$157 million Micott office building project in Hull, Mr. Glen Kealy, stated that "an important person in Public Works on the political side said that support for the project would only come once I give them a bribe or pay them some money."

Given the seriousness of these allegations made on television here in Ottawa yesterday, has the Prime Minister had the opportunity to familiarize himself with this case? Can he respond to the House on it?

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the person who made the allegation indicated that he had been speaking with the RCMP. The matter is under investigation.

[Translation]

RCMP INVESTIGATION—REQUEST FOR DETAILS

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, the supplementary question I would like to ask the Government is this: Is the Government in a position to tell us what will be the mandate and the parameters of this RCMP inquiry?

[English]

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to observe that the employment of the person who made the allegation was terminated by the developers who made that proposal. We have made some