

Oral Questions

I, as the Minister of Health, say to the Government of Ontario and to the doctors of Ontario that I would very seriously hope they would resolve their differences. I know the health care system is better served when men and women see their responsibilities, both public and professional, and sit down at the table, no matter how difficult the circumstances might be, to resolve those differences and get on with their responsibilities.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES**PRIME MINISTER'S TRAVEL EXPENSES**

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. On a daily basis the media are reporting the excessive abuse by the Prime Minister in spending taxpayers' money on hotels, airplanes, videos, limousine rentals, caviar, and champagne, as if he had won the 649 Lottery. Will the Prime Minister now put a stop to the spending orgy of taxpayers' money? He spends it as if it were his own money when it clearly is not. When will he do this?

[Translation]

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, for instance, as far as the *Sommet de la francophonie* is concerned, we first had to establish some important links with France, to pave the way for the first Sommet.

Mr. Ouellet: And caviar with everything!

Mr. Mulroney: It was very important for us to project Canada's image internationally, especially within the context of a summit where our francophone dimension would be highlighted. We had a delegation representing all political groups, Francophones outside Quebec—

Mr. Ouellet: They didn't run up those bills!

Mr. Mulroney: —and the Public Service. As far as I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, for me as a Quebecer and a representative from Quebec, this was a major event, where the emphasis lay on our relations with France, the *Francophonie* and the 40 member countries.

As far as I am concerned, I can say that we conducted ourselves with dignity and always bearing in mind the interests of this country.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER MAKE COMMITMENT

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, speaking on behalf of all Canadians who are out of work, all Canadians who are living on unemployment insurance and all those who have had enough of this wasteful spending, I urge the Prime Minister to rise in the House today

and give Canadians the assurance that this kind of spending will not be repeated because Canadians have had enough. Is he prepared to commit himself now?

• (1130)

[English]

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as my hon. friend refers to personal expenditures, all I can do is tell my hon. friend to ask the media who were with us, or even my own worst enemy. They will give me one thing, I get up early and work all day non stop. My friend mentions spending. Let me say that we have conducted ourselves according to all of the norms. The spending is open to be analyzed and criticized.

With regard to my personal expenditures, I think my belief in that is best justified by action. I am the first Prime Minister of Canada who took a 15 per cent pay cut and who pays for his own food at 24 Sussex Drive.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY**ALLEGED BUREAUCRATIC TERRORISM AGAINST
DISADVANTAGED IN QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister and concerns the Boubou Macoutes.

The Prime Minister is aware that women's, religious, labour and community organizations in Quebec have condemned this operation to check up on welfare recipients at their homes.

Considering the federal funds Quebec receives for social assistance, when is the Prime Minister going to condemn this bureaucratic terrorizing of the neediest in that province?

[English]

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the Hon. Member that I was not in my seat at the beginning of his question. The situation in Quebec— we have been informed and we have been checking it very closely— is that under the provisions of the Canada Assistance Plan Quebec is well within the regulations that form the basis of joint agreements between Quebec and Canada. While the situation needs monitoring on a day by day basis, what Quebec is doing is well within the Act.

[Translation]

FUNDING OF COMMON FRONT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister.