

*Routine Proceedings*

Canadians would like to ask the minister; what has happened to these recommendations? It has been four months since that report was tabled in this House. Where is the urgency?

Three years ago the minister's department requested a document from the Federal Centre for AIDS. The report was meant to brief the government on the mental health needs of people who are HIV positive and the care givers of these people. Canadians want to know whether this report has been completed. When can this House expect to see it?

It is my hope and prayer that documents and studies like this one are not simple make work projects that buy the government a reprieve to do very little. Canadians want to know what became of the recommendations of the parliamentary *ad hoc* committee on AIDS requesting the government to create a joint Senate and House of Commons committee to advise the cabinet and the government on AIDS policy, thereby ensuring programs get adequate support.

I remind the minister of what Henry Sigerist, author of the book *Civilization and Disease* once said: "We must never say that health conditions are good but must rather ask ourselves constantly whether they are as good as they could be.

Mr. Speaker, please let me say this to the minister—

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Lapierre:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** The hon. member for Shefford on a point of order.

**Mr. Lapierre:** Mr. Speaker, I regret to interrupt the House leader who was making a learned presentation, but I cannot get over— We just had what is called a minister's statement, and the minister is no longer here! Has he disappeared? The House leader is trying to comment to the minister—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Order, please. I wish to remind both sides of the House that the Standing Orders say that House tradition forbids indicating the presence or absence of another member. I again recognize the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond.

[*English*]

**Mr. Dingwall:** In conclusion, let me say this to the minister. Thousands of Canadians are painfully aware of the travesty of the horrors of AIDS. As a minister of the Crown, it is important to lessen the suffering, the sense of hopelessness and loss. The minister can make health conditions the best that they can be.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Minister of National Health and Welfare to act and to act expeditiously this week and indeed in the weeks to come.

**Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North):** Mr. Speaker, October 7 to 13 has been designated as National AIDS Awareness Week. It is significant that from a small local initiative started by the lesbian and gay community in 1984, AIDS Awareness Week has become a national event that focuses on expanding the total community's understanding and knowledge about AIDS.

AIDS affects us all, not just those with AIDS and HIV, not just their families and friends and not just their care givers. Three thousand Canadians have died of AIDS. Another 30,000 are infected with HIV.

During AIDS Awareness Week we must pledge to do four things. First, we must improve our education.

We must direct education at all parts of society. We must ensure that it understand AIDS, understand how it spreads and understand how to stop the spread of AIDS.

We must focus our educational efforts on all groups: youth, aboriginal people, gays, lesbians, heterosexual couples, the total community. We must help the community understand about this disease so we can conquer our fears and prejudice.

Second, during AIDS Awareness Week, we must strive to improve our treatment of those with AIDS and HIV. This means we must turn our concern and compassion into better medical treatment and improved community care facilities. We must ensure that bureaucrats do not hold up the use of experimental drugs.

I am very happy to see that the minister has announced that DVI is going to be made available. We must expand our health and community care. We must provide support to friends, families and care givers. We must change people's fears and prejudices so that people with AIDS are not discriminated against in housing and in jobs.