

*Oral Questions**[English]*

Hon. Roy MacLaren (Minister for International Trade, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the specific question of ice cream and yogurt has been a matter of a GATT panel decision. We will take action in light of that decision.

Concerning the broader question of dairy and poultry, we will indeed pursue our basic position that—I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I do not want you to think I do not enjoy looking at you.

The Speaker: I want the hon. minister to know that the feeling is reciprocal.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. MacLaren: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, Canada will of course defend vigorously its fundamental position that the tariffication under the GATT takes precedence over NAFTA.

* * *

HEALTH CARE

Mr. Grant Hill (Macleod, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, Quebec joins Alberta in thinking that the federal Minister of Health is wrong in her rigid rules on semiprivate clinics.

• (1445)

Health minister Rochon says: “Health is a provincial jurisdiction. It is not Marleau’s place to determine”.

Why does this health minister stick with a rigid centralist view of health care when the rest of the country wants flexibility and real reform?

Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I would advise the member to read the Canada Health Act. That is why we are doing it.

Mr. Grant Hill (Macleod, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the premier of Newfoundland also agrees with Quebec. He says: “The federal government should stop interfering in provincial areas such as health. Provinces want flexibility. The citizens want flexibility”. Has this health minister one single proposal to make Canada’s health system more flexible?

Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I would remind the hon. member to go back and get a copy of the Canada Health Act and read it.

* * *

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mrs. Brenda Chamberlain (Guelph—Wellington, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board and the minister responsible for the national infrastructure program.

The national infrastructure program has been a catalyst for growth in Guelph—Wellington and in every community in Canada. Can the minister provide an update as to the status of the program and the number of jobs it has created in Ontario and in this country?

Hon. Arthur C. Eggleton (President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for Infrastructure, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I have more good news for the House.

We are not even half way through the funding allocation of this program. Already some 4,700 projects have been approved in Ontario, creating some 31,000 jobs. This is going a long way to putting Canadians back to work and strengthening the infrastructure in our communities and well on the way to the creation of 100,000 jobs.

I think it says to the premier of Ontario that he is out to lunch when he says that we are not focused on jobs. That is our number one priority.

* * *

*[Translation]***TAINTED BLOOD**

Mrs. Pauline Picard (Drummond, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health.

Tomorrow, Judge Krever will submit to the cabinet his interim report on the activities surrounding the blood supply system in Canada.

In order to ensure at least a minimum of openness, can the minister undertake to release the Krever Commission’s interim report as soon as it is submitted to cabinet?

Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, Judge Krever’s report is not presented to me personally but to cabinet. We will, of course, respond as quickly as possible.

Mrs. Pauline Picard (Drummond, BQ): Mr. Speaker, how can the minister claim to be restoring Canadians’ confidence in their blood supply system when she is not even willing to make this report public as soon as it is presented to cabinet?

[English]

Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, let me reassure the hon. member and every Canadian that we have not waited to take action. We have taken a number of very decisive steps to ensure the safety of the blood supply in Canada.

When the report is received we will respond quickly. We will respond with all appropriate action to ensure that not only is the blood supply system in this country as good as everyone else’s but that it is the best in the world.