

Oral Questions

Mr. White (Fraser Valley West): And we hear the nonsense that goes on over there along with it. That is not very comforting to the families who have lost people waiting in line for health care.

• (1455)

I would like a straightforward answer for a change from the minister. Is the Minister of Health intent on banning all private clinics in Canada? Just a yes or no, nice and simple. Can she answer?

Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we are intent on protecting the principles of the Canada Health Act.

The answer is yes. The answer is yes, we are going to continue to protect the Canada Health Act. Yes, yes, yes, yes.

Mr. Randy White (Fraser Valley West, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, yes, they are banning all clinics. It is good to have an answer. It is like the answers we get from the minister of public works and the minister of culture.

Why is the minister not demanding that Quebec stop charging facility fees on privately run abortion clinics?

Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, let me come back again to what the letter of January 6 was all about. It concerns all provinces. We are now going into every province and we are determining what is happening in each province. That is what is happening.

If there are facility fees being charged and they are not right in any province then we will move in that direction. Many provinces have indicated that they are now negotiating or are addressing the problem as British Columbia did. That is what it is all about. It is about ensuring equitable access for everyone.

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[Translation]

DAIRY INDUSTRY

Mr. Robert Bertrand (Pontiac—Gatineau—Labelle, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the separatists seem more interested in winning the referendum at any cost than in dealing with the real problems of Quebec farmers.

My question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Could he explain how being part of Canada benefits dairy farmers in Quebec?

[English]

Hon. Ralph E. Goodale (Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity in an earlier answer to outline some very impressive statistics about how the Canadian supply management system benefits the dairy industry in the province of Quebec.

By the very fundamental definition of supply management, the domestic market of a producing country is preserved primarily for the benefit of that country's domestic producers. A separate Quebec would obviously no longer be part of the Canadian domestic market. As a result the dairy industry in Quebec could be placed in very substantial jeopardy.

The clearest, best, strongest answer for preserving all these benefits for the dairy industry in Quebec and for the dairy industry in Canada is a clear and decisive no on October 30.

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[Translation]

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Last spring, the Bloc Québécois condemned the blatantly unfair treatment of Quebec by the Department of Justice when professional and special contracts are awarded. In his reply, the minister confirmed our statements, in other words, Quebec is losing out on contracts awarded by the Department of Justice.

Today, could the Minister of Justice explain why Ontario, his own province, gets 80 per cent of the total value of his department's professional and special contracts, while businesses and individuals working under contract in Quebec get only 6 per cent?

[English]

Hon. Allan Rock (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, indeed it was last spring the hon. member put those questions. It was on that occasion that I provided the response and the response remains the same. The Department of Justice, like all departments of government, pursues a policy of open and competitive bidding for all work awarded by contract.

I can tell the hon. member that no matter how the statistics might be used for present partisan purposes, the results and the advantages of the research and the work done at the Department of Justice are shared equally by all Canadians.

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• (1500)

HEALTH CARE

Mr. Ken Epp (Elk Island, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I would like to come back once again to the question of waiting lists.

It was a cold Friday in January 1980 when my wife was diagnosed with breast cancer. I am very grateful that her life was spared because of the speedy surgery which a very competent surgeon recommended and performed three days after the diagnosis.