

Oral Questions
FAMILY VIOLENCE

BADGLEY REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS ON CHILD ABUSE

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Recently a conference was held here in Ottawa and the participants were very angered because children continue to be sexually abused, prostituted, and even murdered, while the Badgley recommendations which were tabled over a year ago continue to be ignored by the Government. When will the Minister, in co-operation with the Minister of Justice, introduce the necessary legislation which was recommended by the Badgley Commission and appoint a commissioner to help counteract child abuse?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I wish to indicate to the Hon. Member that when the Badgley Report came down a number of the recommendations were recommendations, for example, to the Minister of Justice and to the Department of National Health and Welfare, to name just two, as the Hon. Member and other Members of the House will know. The Government established an inter-departmental committee to examine not only the recommendations but the proper response. That work is going on now. I hope, as she does, that a satisfactory response can be made very shortly.

NATIONAL CLEARING HOUSE INQUIRY

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister knows that we already have in place one clearing house on family violence which could be expanding in terms of some of the public education work, information systems, and even national training. Why has the Minister cut back on the national clearing house on family violence when he should be expanding it to help with the very serious problem of child abuse?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, we will look at that question and at what the proper response will be. Generally, I think we would accept as a society that the best response would be at the community level through organizations which have experience in these areas. If one looks at that approach and at the report of the Badgley Commission, I think that before too long the Government will have a response. I keep in mind, as I hope the Hon. Member will, that the response will have to be such that there should be help for children and battered children rather than simply looking at it as a financial matter. I think it goes much deeper than that.

● (1440)

[Translation]

INDUSTRY

QUEBEC PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY—REQUEST FOR POLICIES

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Yesterday, in answer to a fundamental question about the future of Quebec's petro-chemical industry, he gave me the usual line that it was all the Liberals' fault. I would like to inform the Prime Minister that it has now been fifteen months, and that it is high time he took on his responsibilities as Leader of this Government. And that is why I am asking him again today: Can his Government state quite honestly that, as he promised, it will adopt every policy necessary to maintain and expand the petro-chemical industry in Quebec, and especially in Montreal?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I must admit that it was uphill all the way in this respect for the new Government, since the Liberal Government had officially announced its decision to close down the petro-chemical industry in Montreal. Yes, that is what they said. The Liberal Government told Montrealers they would not get another red cent for this very important industry in their city. So this was a tremendous problem for us. The first thing we did to try and held this important industry which had been abandoned by the Liberals was to inject \$15 million into Petromont in September 1984. And now, Mr. Speaker, I intend to see the Premier of Quebec in the near future to discuss the matter further with him, since he is an interested party.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF
QUEBEC PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, it is there for everyone to see in the Progressive Conservative Party's literature that they intend to establish policies to promote the petro-chemical industry in Quebec, and the Government has not done so. What I want to ask the Prime Minister . . . You may want to meet with the Premier of Quebec, but on December 15, Mr. Prime Minister, workers in the petro-chemical industry are going to go home with their termination papers in their—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

Mr. Lapierre: Is the Prime Minister prepared to meet today with representative of these workers who are sick and tired of his beating around the bush? They want action. What is he going to do?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Yes, action, action like the false promises the Liberal Government made to