

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

**EAST TIMOR**

**Mr. Nic Leblanc (Longueuil, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Foreign Affairs. East Timor has been occupied by Indonesia since 1975. About 200,000 people are believed to have died following the repression that is still plaguing that country. In 1991, the current Prime Minister asked Canada to press for the implementation of United Nations resolutions demanding that Indonesia withdraw from Timor.

How can the Minister of Foreign Affairs explain the Prime Minister's silence on this issue during his trip to Indonesia?

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the hon. member that, in fact, the matter of East Timor was the subject of discussions between President Suharto and Prime Minister Chrétien.

• (1435)

**Mr. Nic Leblanc (Longueuil, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, as the minister probably knows, according to Amnesty International, every day in East Timor people are oppressed, beaten and even killed. Can the minister tell us how the Prime Minister, who is now in Indonesia, can go back on his past commitments and miss such a great opportunity to advance the cause of human rights?

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I think that the hon. member's comments are totally unfounded. In fact, during his visit to Indonesia, the Prime Minister announced that the Government of Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency, would finance a project with Care Canada to help the people of East Timor.

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[English]

**HEALTH CARE**

**Mr. Grant Hill (Macleod, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, the health minister has recently hammered Alberta for private health clinics and their facility fees. Could the minister please tell us how the facility fees in Alberta are different from facility fees elsewhere in Canada?

**Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question.

The Canada Health Act states a province must provide for insured health services on uniform terms and conditions and on a basis that does not impede or preclude either directly or indirectly, whether by charges made to insured persons or otherwise, reasonable access to those services.

Some of these clinics get public funds because the physician fees are paid. Therefore access is precluded or is impeded for certain people because they cannot afford to pay the facility fees.

That is a very big concern of this government. We do not want a medicare system which benefits the healthy and the wealthy at the expense of the sick and the ordinary Canadian.

**Mr. Grant Hill (Macleod, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, private clinics everywhere in Canada operate on this principle. For instance, Medclub Montreal conducts executive health exams exactly this way. Abortion clinics in seven provinces charge facility fees between \$200 and \$500 paid privately, the doctor's fee paid publicly.

How can there be one set of rules for Alberta and another set of rules for everyone else? Good luck.

**Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, facility fees concern me wherever they are charged when there are public dollars involved. The objective of this government is to maintain a system which has served this country very well.

Average Canadians elected us to safeguard that system and that is what we are going to do, that is what we are doing.

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[Translation]

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

**Mrs. Christiane Gagnon (Québec, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Human Resources Development. Yesterday, the minister repeated that he intends to turn short-term employees into second-class unemployed who would receive reduced benefits, based on their family income, or even no benefits at all in some cases.

How can the minister consider forcing workers to pay unemployment insurance premiums only to deprive them of their benefits afterwards?

[English]

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, all we released yesterday was a technical paper. I would remind the hon. member that her leader in the opening debate on social reform was in some high dudgeon demanding that we provide technical information as to what the various impacts of different proposals would be.

We have now supplied that. I suppose when we supplied it we found that the Bloc Québécois did not like the look of that information.

They are simply facts. They are simply information. We know the Bloc Québécois does not like to deal with the facts. We see