

real terms serious measures that will bring about an end to this corrupt and degrading system that exists in South Africa.

POSITION OF UNITED KINGDOM PRIME MINISTER

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, the concern is that that timetable does not reflect the sense of urgency people feel about the South African situation. I wonder if the Prime Minister could tell the House whether he has been in touch with Mrs. Thatcher and whether he has a strategy for bringing Mrs. Thatcher on board. Her public statements reflect a position which would seem to make it impossible to have the kind of unity of which the Prime Minister speaks. Could he share with us his views as to whether or not he can bring Mrs. Thatcher on board, and could he tell us whether or not he has spoken to her?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in Nassau I had the occasion to work quite closely with, among others, Prime Minister Hawkes of Australia, Prime Minister Gandhi of India, and Kenneth Kaunda. They played key roles. Prime Minister Hawkes, for example, was the person who advanced the concept of the Eminent Persons Group.

These people are, like all of us, deeply committed to progress. They are key players in the next step. I have been in close touch with them. I have spoken by telephone to Prime Minister Gandhi at length, with Prime Minister Hawkes, with President Kaunda and with others. As I say, we are working in a measured and, I hope, a productive way toward making a contribution to the next step which must be the visible resolution of an unacceptable situation that defiles human beings. There must be some significant light shed on this matter.

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MEDICAL CARE

CANADA HEALTH ACT—ONTARIO DOCTORS' STRIKE

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister who will recall that in January, 1984, the Canada Health Act was passed unanimously by Parliament. It specifically states that extra billing is against the principles of universal access to health care, and provides for penalties to those provinces that allow extra billing. Will the Prime Minister use the authority of his office to urge the doctors to put down their placards, to end the lockout of the sick, and to get back to providing health care to the people of Ontario?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I feel that as the Minister responsible for health care I answered that question yesterday. The Province of Ontario and the doctors of Ontario are involved in an issue which they must resolve.

Oral Questions

The Hon. Member has said that patients are being locked out, but that is not a correct statement. I can only repeat what I said yesterday. I checked yesterday with the office of the Minister of Health in Ontario and was informed that every emergency centre that is reported in the press as being closed has a medical doctor resident, and services are being provided under conditions which are now prevalent in Ontario.

ONTARIO HOSPITAL INSURANCE PLAN—SITUATION OF CONTRIBUTORS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. The Minister will know that doctors in Ontario are shutting down emergency wards are asking doctors in other provinces not to accept Ontario health insurance cards and are now threatening to accelerate their actions.

• (1125)

What action is the Minister taking to ensure that the principles of the Canada Health Act are being respected and that people are not being locked out from receiving proper health care?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, again the Hon. Member uses the words "locked out", and again they are not the correct words to use in the circumstances. With regard to portability, I explained my responsibilities relative to portability, and that under the Canada Health Act there are two methods whereby Ontario residents outside Ontario can obtain medical help. I have been assured by Ontario that it will honour direct billings from doctors outside Ontario, and accept the bills which Ontario residents might have been required to pay. The portability conditions under the Canada Health Act are being met by the commitments of Ontario.

FEDERAL FUNDING

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Perhaps the Minister should explain that nobody is being locked out to the woman who lost her child when she was unable to obtain access to the appropriate hospital earlier this week. My supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. Would he confirm that when the legislation banning extra billing is passed later today in the Legislature of Ontario the people of Ontario will be eligible for approximately \$100 million, because of the funds which have been denied them as a result of extra billing, to enhance health care in the Province of Ontario?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I think all reasonable people who know the very tragic case which the Hon. Member cited, including members at Queen's Park and members of the Ontario Medical Association, have some question on whether the delay would have prevented the miscarriage.