

Oral Questions

The population is encouraged to get vaccinated if this has not been done recently. Both in August of 1974 and in July of 1975 I instructed that inserts be put in with family allowances asking mothers to see that their children be vaccinated, and the only other piece of advice I can give is for people concerned to get their vaccinations from the usual sources from which they have been getting them in the past.

Mr. Rynard: In view of the short time left for total immunization I should like to ask the minister, as the senior health minister of the provinces, whether he would advise the use of the Sabin oral vaccine, which would protect those people attending the games.

Mr. Lalonde: We asked the national advisory committee at their meeting of October 30 and 31 of last year to study the matter of all the vaccines presently used in Canada against polio, and that particular committee has reported that both Salk and Sabin vaccines were found to be suitable to fight polio. so I am not in a position to advise at this stage as to whether one should be preferred over the other.

Mr. Rynard: I should like to ask the minister if he checked into the fact that the Sabin vaccine is the only one which protects against the neuro-muscular type of polio and other manifestations of the disease.

Mr. Lalonde: I will check into that, but I understand that this is not the advice we received from the national advisory committee.

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STATUS OF WOMEN**PROPOSED PENSIONS FOR HOMEMAKERS AND CAPITAL GRANTS FOR CHILD CARE CENTRES—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare in his capacity as minister responsible for the status of women. Now that ten days have gone by since the delegates of the national action committee respecting the status of women were here in Ottawa and in light of his having met yesterday in Winnipeg with the National Advisory Council, is the minister in a position to state whether the government is prepared to introduce further specific measures to improve the status of women such as federal grants toward the capital cost of child care centres and the provision of pensions for spouses who are homemakers?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as far as the latter part of the question is concerned, the government put forward very progressive proposals to the welfare ministers conference last February. Most provinces endorsed the general principles of the proposals we put forward. They asked for time to study the details, and as the hon. member knows, the support of two thirds of the provinces having two thirds of the population is required before I can put forward any amendment to the Canada Pension Plan.

As far as the first part of the question is concerned, I remind the hon. member that as the law stands at the

[Mr. Lalonde.]

present time we are providing more generously than any social service for day care in Canada at the present time. This is the only social service for which we are allowing the depreciation of the capital cost as a cost eligible for cost-sharing. In addition, we are also cost-sharing the cost of rented space, so at the present time we are cost-sharing on a very generous basis, more generously than for any other social service.

I have indicated that I intend to introduce in the fall a new piece of legislation called the social services act which will provide, I hope, for even greater flexibility.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: Paul Martin would have been proud.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Rather than these generalities would the minister indicate when the government is prepared to contribute to the actual or original capital cost of day care centres?

Mr. Lalonde: I fail to see the generality of what I said, and I will ask the hon. member to be more specific.

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FISHERIES**REQUEST FOR REPORT ON CONSULTATIONS WITH UNITED STATES CONCERNING PRINCIPLES GOVERNING SEAWARD EXTENSION OF BOUNDARY LINE**

Mr. Lloyd R. Grouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 30 I asked the Prime Minister two questions with regard to Canada-United States boundaries, and in the absence of an answer, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of State (Fisheries).

Since Canada maintains the equidistant principle in the seaward extension of the boundary dividing the land mass between Canada and the United States, while the United States claims the fundian channel divides the fishing banks on the Atlantic coast, has the minister or any of his officials held recent talks with the Americans on this topic, and if so, can he inform the House on the progress being made, in view of the valuable groundfish, lobster and scallop fishery as well as possible oil, gas and minerals in this area?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, the matter was raised when we met with the state department officials handling problems relating to fisheries last week in New York. It will also be raised at the bilateral talks between the Canadian and American governments which are to take place next week in British Columbia. Meanwhile, the reciprocal arrangement which exists between the Americans and ourselves has been extended for one year, to April, 1977. I do not hide the fact that we will have some complicated boundary negotiations with the United States.

● (1450)

BASIS FOR ISSUANCE OF OIL EXPLORATION PERMITS FOR GEORGES BANK BY UNITED STATES

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): A supplementary question. The United States Bureau of the Interior recently