

## Oral Questions

• (1435)

If justice is to be done laws must be framed properly. Not all the amendments we would like to see can be done at the same time, but reflection and due care must be given to the presentation and the formulation of these laws. That is exactly what is going to be done.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

## CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

**Mrs. Suzanne Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

Patrick Watson, who just resigned as chairman of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, said yesterday that advisers of former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney contacted the management of the CBC on several occasions, particularly during the referendum campaign on the Charlottetown accord, to make the content of the news more in line with the government position.

Does the Prime Minister agree with the kind of political pressure exerted by the previous government, and does he not believe that this kind of interference violates the freedom and integrity of journalists?

**Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, it seems that it was not very effective, and I dislike being ineffective.

**Mrs. Suzanne Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the Prime Minister that the position of his party is to convince broadcasters to promote Canadian identity. He will probably do it effectively.

What I want to know is if he is ready to guarantee, on behalf of the government, that they will never exert pressure on the CBC to make it alter its news during a future referendum on Quebec sovereignty.

**Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, there is a law governing the operation of the CBC, and I will ask that the CBC respect that law. The law says, in defining the mandate of the CBC, that it must inform people on the advantages offered by Canada. This is the reason for the creation of the corporation. Objectivity is all we ask for.

I never called the CBC and I do not intend to. Freedom of the press is a fact of life I am used to. It did not always make my life easy, but I survived.

[English]

## ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME

**Mr. Myron Thompson (Wild Rose):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health.

Over half a million dollars of tax money was budgeted for a national AIDS survey focusing on the gay community. AIDS education is important. However the money was used instead to publish a sex recipe for gay men detailing in explicit gutter language how men engage in sex with one another. This is absurd.

Does the minister condone spending one half a million dollars on this kind of garbage?

**Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health):** Mr. Speaker, I must say that AIDS is a very serious epidemic. If we can save one life then we must do everything in our power.

This booklet was put together especially for those communities at risk. There are times when one has to call a spade a spade or people will not understand.

**Mr. Myron Thompson (Wild Rose):** Mr. Speaker, that is about the most ridiculous answer I have ever heard when I look at pamphlets like this one. Oral sex, anal sex—

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

• (1440)

**The Speaker:** Order. I am sure the hon. member will want to put his supplementary question.

**Mr. Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, could the minister explain to me how this material got into the hands of 10, 11 and 12 year olds in schools across the country? Will the people over there laugh when their grandchildren bring that kind of garbage home?

**Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health):** Mr. Speaker, this information was certainly not put together for young children, but these kinds of behaviour are extremely risky. Those who do participate in these kinds of behaviours should have the knowledge they need to make sure they do not spread the AIDS virus.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

## AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS

**Mr. Michel Guimond (Beauport—Montmorency—Orléans):** Mr. Speaker, 25 years after passage of the Official Languages Act and 20 years after the debate on the use of French in air traffic control communications, French-language air traffic control services are still not available everywhere over the Quebec territory.