

Oral Questions

unprecedented access was given to it by this government and the Clark government to review all Privy Council minutes, documents in the possession of the RCMP, to examine witnesses, and ask questions, subject to their terms of reference. An investigation was conducted and a report prepared.

Now, the hon. member has made allegations about illegal acts committed by the government. No such acts were found to have been committed by members of the government, in the findings of the McDonald commission. References were made to certain acts which should be referred to the attorneys general, including the Attorney General of Quebec, for investigation and possible laying of charges. Charges have been laid and documents which the commission released and made public will be submitted to the court, but others which are irrelevant, which deal with confidences of the cabinet and matters of national security, and which were accessible to the McDonald commission, will not be made public for the purposes of this court procedure.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER WAIVE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Mr. Peter Elzinga (Pembina): Madam Speaker, out of a sense of decency would the Solicitor General waive Section 41(2) of the Federal Court Act?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, it is not a matter of a sense of decency; it is a matter of the contents of these documents and the possible prejudice which could result to the national security of Canada by making such documents public.

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MEDICAL CARE

FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION TO PROVINCES

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare, if she continues to support the federal budget, whether or not she thinks the health care of Canadians will get better or worse in light of the cutback of \$4.5 billion in funding to the provinces? Does she think that will help or hurt health care in Canada?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to confirm to the hon. member that I am very pleased with the budget attributed by the Minister of Finance to medicare. Over each of the next five years this will increase on average by, I think, 13.4 per cent, which is in excess of inflation. Because of that I am not going to have to negotiate financial payments to the provinces and I will be able to concentrate on strengthening medicare. As I said, we will be paying to Alberta, like every other province, sums of money which will increase on average by about 13 per cent year over year, which is excellent.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

QUERY RESPECTING MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Madam Speaker, if accessibility to the health care system is adversely affected, either through the creation of longer waiting lists for things like heart bypasses, or through the intrusion of major user fees, will the minister join with us in opposing the budget at that point, or will she be prepared to resign in protest over the real effect of this budget on the health care of Canadians?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I must say I would regret it very much if some provincial governments were to punish the health of Canadians by cutting funds from their provincial health budgets. There is no way they can blame selection of their own provincial priorities on the federal health payments they receive. As I explained, the moneys we pay for health care, which will increase over each of the next five years as they have in the past, must go to health. Our new technique of block funding has the advantage of respecting local priorities, and I hope it will not have the disadvantage of provinces decreasing their share of the health budget.

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[Translation]

IMMIGRATION

ESTABLISHMENT OF SECURITY APPEAL COMMISSION

Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency-Orléans): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General.

Considering the case of Salvadoran journalist Victor Manuel Regalado, who is now under detention in Montreal after a security certificate, signed by the minister and his colleague at Immigration and leading to deportation from Canada, was issued under Section 39 of the Immigration Act, while neither Mr. Regalado, nor his lawyer, nor the adjudicators of the Department of Immigration are aware of the charge, which considerably reduces his chances of defending himself, could the minister inform the House whether he intends to implement soon one of the recommendations made by the McDonald commission, namely, to create a security appeal commission that would automatically review all security certificates issued under Section 39 of the Immigration Act?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that I regret there is not at the present time a system for reviewing decisions made in this area, and that I hope soon to be tabling in the House, after discussion in cabinet, a system for external control and review of decisions made with respect to national security.