

Oral Questions

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, why, as recently as yesterday, did the Minister say that the officials were brought in at the request of Queen's Park?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. Simmons: Take a deep breath, Doug.

Mr. Lewis: If one reads on a little further in the *aide-mémoire* which was made public, one will see: "The RCMP consulted Ontario Crown law officers as to what charges were warranted. During these consultations it was agreed that there should be consultations on certain matters between the Ontario Crown law officers and the Justice Department".

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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CANADA PENSION PLAN

REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT OF ACT—DISABLED PERSONS

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare who will know that several hundred Canadians paid into the Canada Pension Plan who subsequently left their employment owing to a previous disability but who have had their applications for a Canada Pension Plan disability pension denied because their applications failed the so-called test of recency.

Will the Minister consider amending the Act in order that these deserving and needy disabled Canadians can have the pensions to which they are entitled in spite of their failing to meet the test of recency?

In other words, these delays are occasioned in part as a result of the very disability which caused them to leave their jobs. Would the Minister please indicate whether he can address the situation?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I know that this has been a matter of concern for the Hon. Member for some considerable period of time. At the present time he has a

motion on the Order Paper which recommends that the Government consider opening up the Canada Pension Plan Act to make these amendments.

The Government has no current intention of reopening the Canada Pension Plan Act. However, should that arise, we will certainly take into consideration the recommendations of the hon. gentleman.

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[Translation]

FEDERAL—PROVINCIAL AGREEMENTS

REQUEST THAT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CONFIRM EXISTENCE OF CERTAIN CUT-BACKS

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. The Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology blames the Government of Québec for the inexcusable delay in implementing the Canada-Québec agreements. In doing so, the Minister is trying to distract attention from the cutbacks he made in the regional development budget.

Mr. Speaker, I have here a letter dated May 2, sent by the Minister to Minister Gil Rémillard, in which he announced that there would be cuts totalling \$470 million in the Canada-Québec subsidiary agreements.

Could the Deputy Prime Minister confirm these cutbacks in the amount of approximately \$470 million?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, we have three programs under the agreement, and we hope that the Government of the Province of Québec will submit these programs as soon as possible. We are waiting.

QUESTION REITERATED

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, I have here a letter dated May 2, in which the Minister confirms that he had to abandon—that there will be no funding for the subsidiary agreements that would have become effective on March 31, 1990, and which would have only involved the sum of \$274 million instead of \$745 million. That makes a difference of \$470 million, Mr. Speaker. I wish the Government would confirm these cuts today instead of blaming the Government of Québec. Ottawa is cutting back, not the Québec Government.