

Adjournment Debate

violence, all because we do not have rehabilitation facilities in Canada to care for them. However, across the 49th parallel, just a few hours drive, there are scattered throughout the United States 400 institutions of varying degrees of expertise. Many of them are top-flight and can provide such care.

Canada should develop the capacity to have people on staff who have the expertise to manage these cases and to have facilities in place. Surely it is our responsibility for every humanitarian reason to encourage provincial Ministers of Health to let the provincial medical plans, whether in B.C. or Ontario, cover the costs of care in the United States. It is grossly unfair to these families and the victims and it is an insult to our society. I urge that we not confine these people in those kinds of circumstances. They cannot be managed in acute care facilities, so they are shipped out to places in Canada where no benefit is given for treatment.

● (1805)

This is a new area of concern to me. I wish to assure my colleagues that I will follow through with it. While I do not have statistics for my own constituency as yet, I will obtain them. I do not have statistics for British Columbia, my home province, as yet either, but I will obtain them. I want the Minister of National Health and Welfare to know that I will continue unabated to see that this wrong is addressed. I cannot believe that Canada has not taken this forward step in medical care.

I would hope that my concern and the outcry of the families of 9,000 victims each and every year will be answered by provincial Ministers and by the federal Minister of National Health and Welfare. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to participate in this very brief debate.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Monique Tardif (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, on January 23 of this year, the Hon. Member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco) raised in the House the question of treatment in Canada for people suffering from brain damage as a result of trauma or infection. He referred to the case of Sergeant Dan Duggan of the Ottawa Police Department who has suffered serious brain damage as a result of viral encephalitis.

The effect of this illness on Mr. Duggan has been debilitating in the extreme. The Minister sympathizes with his family and realizes that it wishes to obtain for him the kind of medical care that will improve his condition.

Mr. Speaker, it is said that Canada's health system has an international reputation. However, Mr. Duggan's situation makes us realize how far we still are from being able to offer victims of brain damage the specialized medical services their condition requires.

The Minister will therefore ask his Deputy Minister to discuss with his provincial counterparts the question of medical care for victims of brain damage. At the present time, the authority and responsibility for operating and administering

health services comes under the jurisdiction of the individual provincial governments. Reimbursement rates and terms for payment of essential medical services obtained abroad, like the ultra-specialized rehabilitation services being sought by the Duggan family, are subject to interpretation and approval by the provincial plan, which in this particular case is the Ontario Health Insurance Plan.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is clear that the question of treatment and treatment centres for victims of brain damage deserves our attention. It is to be hoped that consideration of this matter by deputy ministers from the Health Department will be a first step towards acquiring a better understanding of the medical needs of these people.

[*English*]

OLYMPICS—TICKETS FOR HOCKEY FINAL. (B) REQUEST THAT MINISTER INTERVENE WITH OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I want to speak briefly about the question of the 1988 Olympics, the availability of tickets and other matters surrounding that. I raise this matter because I and many Canadians are becoming increasingly worried by the state of affairs surrounding the organization of the 1988 Winter Olympic Games.

We Canadians have a long memory and we remember very well our past experience with the Olympics in Montreal. That fiasco caused Canadians a great deal of embarrassment, not to mention a great deal of money, and we do not want to see it repeated. The Minister's comments and vague reassurances, in this House and in the press, do nothing to satisfy me or the people of Calgary. We remember throughout the Montreal fiasco that both Government and Olympic officials were full of similar assurances.

● (1810)

You can imagine the consternation Canadians feel when we see one high-ranking official after another resigning from the organizing committee, when we read press reports about the secretiveness of the committee, when we see that a full-scale review of the management policies and procedures, and the relationship between management and staff, has to be ordered. We see costs rising, we get confusing and conflicting statements from officials, we see charges of fraud laid against a high-ranking officer of the committee, and then finally we find out that a select group of insiders known as the Olympic family gets the first crack at the best seats. Who are these insiders? It turns out this select group is made up of Olympic officials and other dignitaries from around the globe, of Canadian federal, provincial and municipal officials, and of corporate sponsors.

I do not think any Canadian would object to a certain number of tickets being put aside for official representatives. We recognize that is not only a reasonable thing to do, it is also required as part of the Olympic Charter. However, we have some reservations about the number of ticket requests