

Oral Questions

HEALTH

DENTAL CARE PROGRAM IN SASKATCHEWAN—REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF INDIAN CHILDREN

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for either the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development or the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It concerns the availability of certain dental care in northern Saskatchewan. In northern Saskatchewan, dental care is being advertised for certain children between the ages of three and 16, excluding those who are under the federal Indian health services. Have representations been made to the minister to have this service available to those who are presently under Indian health services or, conversely, has the department initiated any discussions with the province of Saskatchewan to have the plan co-ordinated?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, we have discussions underway with the government of Saskatchewan on this subject. Our policy is that the government of Saskatchewan should take care of Indians outside of reserves, while my department will be responsible for the Indians on reserves. However, I must say I am having difficulty convincing the government of Saskatchewan to exercise its responsibilities in this regard.

Mr. Korchinski: Will the minister advise whether there have been any representations from the Indians with regard to this matter?

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, we have had representations from the Indians from time to time on the subject of health services. I believe discussions were held with Indian representatives on this particular point several months ago.

REQUEST FOR INCREASED FUNDS FOR RESEARCH ON IMPLANTABLE ARTIFICIAL PANCREAS

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It is as a result of a letter I received from the Brant county medical officer of health. It refers to the fact that the Medical Research Council has three times in a row turned down an application for a grant to develop an implantable artificial pancreas in those who suffer from diabetes. This involves many hundreds of thousands of people throughout the world. Will the minister reconsider and grant more funds to the research team at the Banting Best Institute in Toronto?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, my answer will be very simple. The Medical Research Council is an independent body; it determines the amount and the allocation of grants at its complete discretion. I do not intend to intervene, nor do I have the power to do so, in the decisions taken by the council in respect of some research projects. These projects are not determined by politicians but rather by a group of scholars who carefully consider every project submitted.

[Mr. Sharp.]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

STRIKE OF LONGSHOREMEN IN QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO SETTLE

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour.

Considering the interest shown for many weeks by hon. members from both sides of this House and the fact that the minister said earlier today that a last effort would be made today to reconcile the interested parties in the longshoremen's strike, could the minister tell us whether Mr. Poirier is still mediator for the federal government and, which is very important to all farmers, how long the government intends to wait before bringing forward the special measure mentioned by the minister earlier today?

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Poirier is still the mediator, I can advise the hon. member. I think he will agree that affairs affecting the port of Stanley qualify him for that particular job. As to the latter part of the hon. member's question, we are not prepared to wait very long.

Mr. Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. In answer to my question yesterday, the Minister of Transport indicated that I seemed to be well aware of all the facts. He continued "and if he is not, he will be informed of them tomorrow". Since we did not hear anything from the minister, I wonder if I might assume that my facts were correct.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

● (1500)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

COMBINES

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ROYAL COMMISSION TO STUDY IMPLICATIONS OF MAJOR CONCENTRATIONS OF CORPORATE POWER

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in the last several years Canadians have seen an increasing number of changes in corporate organization in Canada through acquisitions, amalgamations and mergers as well as through the growth in size and activity of many corporations.

In a growing economy it is natural that participating corporations will grow in size, strength and capability, and this is also desirable. It is always, however, necessary to ensure that while maintaining flexibility in Canadian corporate activity so that business can continue to meet the changing challenges of domestic and international commerce, the dynamics of change in corporate life are, nonetheless, contained within the needs of the public interest. Concentrations of corporate power in Canada must not be allowed to take place where the result would be injury to the fair operation of the capital and financial marketplace. The availability of the resources necessary to