

*Oral Questions*

[English]

**GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS**

**Mr. Jim Abbott (Kootenay East, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, due to patently obvious Liberal patronage, the justice department in a case in Nanaimo, B.C. put a reluctant and inexperienced lawyer handling his first drug conspiracy case up against a seasoned defence lawyer. Predictably the case was thrown out.

Because this patronage issue has expanded beyond the three firms identified as being the revenue minister's ardent supporters, will the justice minister do the right thing to protect the people of B.C. and review his recent appointments of Liberal bagmen and hacks?

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot comment on the case because it is possible the decision will be appealed.

The lawyer for the crown, the prosecutor, was an experienced litigator and had been a representative of the attorney general since 1986.

• (1450)

**Mr. Jim Abbott (Kootenay East, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, that is very interesting. He has been a representative of the justice department since 1986. This was his first case prosecuting drugs. Formerly he had prosecuted fishery problems. There is a difference.

Due to the interference of the revenue minister, a firm of 20 years' experience, MacDonald McNeely, that would have been handling the case, was let go. In spite of concerns expressed by myself in the House to the justice minister, concerns expressed by the RCMP in public and to the justice department and even the newly appointed prosecutor himself, the justice department still let him go ahead with the prosecution and he blew it.

I ask again, will the minister do the right thing. Will he get rid of the revenue minister's appointments and give the people of B.C. what they deserve, a properly run justice system free from patronage?

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, prosecutions by the federal government take many forms.

The Criminal Code is a very large book. A lawyer can go a whole career and never have prosecutions under certain sections. It is extremely unreasonable not to allow a representative of the attorney general not to prosecute because he or she may not have had a previous case under that particular section.

[Translation]

**KREVER COMMISSION**

**Mrs. Madeleine Dalphond-Guiral (Laval-Centre, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health.

The national hearings on the tainted blood scandal allow members of the Krever Commission to hear witnesses in order to understand the events surrounding this tragedy. It happens that some decisions were made by federal political figures. Yet, these same people have not been invited to appear before this commission.

Can the minister assure us that her department's authorities have made all the information required to shed light on the decisions that were made between 1978 and 1985 by the various actors, including the political figures, available to the Krever Commission?

**Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, we want to fully co-operate so that we really know what happened. I am told that, indeed, all the information has been made available to Mr. Krever.

**Mrs. Madeleine Dalphond-Guiral (Laval-Centre, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, I got the minister's answer and would like to ask her another question.

Considering that at the time of the tainted blood scandal, Connaught Laboratories were controlled by the Canada Development Corporation, a federal corporation, how does the minister explain that no one on the board or in management of this corporation between 1978 and 1985 has been invited to testify at the national hearings of the Krever Commission?

[English]

**Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the Krever inquiry is to look into what happened in the past.

• (1455)

I personally or as the Minister of Health will not make any comments concerning any of the witnesses or any of the evidence that is being brought before Mr. Krever.

We await his final report. Mr. Krever is independent in deciding how to conduct his inquiry and we will continue to ensure that independence. We think it is very important.

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**CANADA POST**

**Mr. Ken Epp (Elk Island, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, on seven previous occasions I have asked for a full public inquiry into the Perez affair. It has been denied every time.

The Prime Minister says he wants proof. Here are several documented instances. A Liberal member of the other place