

Senator Gauthier: That is what I want to know — when?

Senator Beaudoin: I am ready to take it at any time.

Senator Gauthier: That is my question. Can the chairman assure us that these bills — C-22 and C-69 — will be reported to the house within 24 hours, given that the situation is such that the chairman himself expects a negative vote. Let the committee chairman take the vote and report to the Senate that there was dissidence on the committee. That is all.

[English]

HEALTH

REORGANIZATION OF BLOOD SUPPLY SYSTEM—TIMING OF FINAL REPORT OF KREVER COMMISSION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Richard J. Doyle: Honourable senators, some weeks ago I received answers to questions that I had asked of the Leader of the Government in the Senate last June about the reorganization of the blood supply system. The text of the reply, some 700 words — longer than most of my questions — was strong on assurances and short on details. Special attention was given to the interim report of Justice Krever, who:

...recognizes that the system today is dynamic and undergoing changes at a rapid rate.

The reply then continues:

Where practical and warranted, the government is prepared to apply its expertise to assist others in implementing Justice Krever's recommendations relating to their jurisdictional authorities.

The reply continues further:

General questions about the national blood supply system would best be served by referring to Justice Krever's advice in his final report which is due to be submitted to the government by December 31 of this year.

Many senators share my concern that without evidence of action in preparation of a contingency plan, only delay will follow the submission of the report; delay in response to the terrible neglect of the 1970s and 1980s; neglect that resulted directly in the spread of AIDS through the blood supply that the Red Cross, government agencies and other interested parties had reason to believe was contaminated.

Honourable senators, we are told that Justice Krever has applied for a further delay in the submission of his final report. Could the Leader of the Government tell us how far down the road that report might be?

Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I am aware of the application for a further extension. I will check with my colleague to see if any decision

has been made on that, and reply promptly to my honourable friend's question.

Senator Doyle: When that time comes and we know what date we might expect to hear from Justice Krever, will the government then have an answer for the suppliers who have resolutely refused to apologize for their part in the contamination of the blood supply more than a decade ago?

Senator Fairbairn: Honourable senators, I share my honourable friend's concerns, and I will try to find a response to that question.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

REPRIEVE FROM PLANNED EMBARGO ON CANADIAN FURS— POSSIBILITY OF BANNING LEG-HOLD TRAPS— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Mira Spivak: Honourable senators, as *The Globe and Mail* reported on Friday, Canada has won a one-year reprieve from the European Union's planned embargo on Canadian furs, but the victory will be wasted unless the government now turns to helping trappers give up, within that year, the leg-hold traps that Europeans find so objectionable.

That is the opinion of Brian Craik of the Grand Council of the Crees of Northern Quebec. The vast majority of Cree trappers already use the Conibear trap, which is acceptable to the EU.

What steps will the government take within the next 12 months to ensure that trappers have shifted to more humane traps, and that this reprieve is not wasted?

Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I join with my honourable friend in expressing satisfaction that we have a year in which to try to resolve this long-standing dispute that is of particular concern to the aboriginal people in relation to their livelihood in the north. It would be the intention of the government to use that year to try to find a solution which meets the concerns of our aboriginal people, as well as the concerns of the European Community, and I can assure her that I will try to obtain any details that I can. This is a matter which the government takes very seriously, and I can assure my honourable friend that we will be using this reprieve, as she terms it, to address this concern.

Senator Spivak: Can the Leader of the Government in the Senate tell me which is the lead ministry on this question? Of course, while it is primarily the trappers who are concerned, there are also manufacturers, some of whom are based in Winnipeg, who would very much like to know under whose jurisdiction this matter will be dealt with.

Senator Fairbairn: I would imagine, Senator Spivak that, because of its very nature, there will be a cooperative effort on this matter, but the lead department will be the Department of International Trade.