

**Mr. Jamieson:**—I can assure you I will do that.

**Mr. Clark:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the record is now clear, although I do not think that the House will accept the suggestion that we should blame Mr. Tierney entirely for the embarrassment this affair has brought to the country. When does the Secretary of State for External Affairs expect to announce the replacement to Ambassador Warren? Will that announcement come in the near future? We would also appreciate knowing whether the replacement will be a career diplomat or whether the appointment will follow the pattern of ambassadorial appointments by this government to London, Paris and Brussels.

**Mr. Jamieson:** Mr. Speaker, once again I can say without qualification that the matter quite literally has not been discussed in terms of replacement because there was no anticipation nor is there now that Ambassador Warren will be leaving, as I believe some of the stories state, immediately, or anything of that nature. The position is that Ambassador Warren's term does not expire until June. I think I am right in saying June, certainly mid-year. There has not been consideration of a replacement. Therefore, I cannot answer the second part of the question because I have not discussed it with anyone as yet.

**Mr. Clark:** Mr. Speaker, the minister has already indicated that he has been seized of this information since October. It did not break to him yesterday as it did to the rest of the country. Surely, there has been some consideration of the question of a replacement in the three or four months that have intervened. Since the matter has now broken, can the Secretary of State for External Affairs tell us whether he intends to make an early announcement as to the nature and the person of the replacement to Ambassador Warren and when that might occur?

**Mr. Jamieson:** Mr. Speaker, may I again explain that there has not been consideration of this matter even though I have been aware of it since October. Hon. members opposite who are familiar with the public service will know that there is an annual review of ambassadorial transfers and appointments which takes place about now, in February and March of each year. It involves a very large number of transfers. Therefore, it would normally be considered and will be considered in that context. That is the reason for not answering the hon. member. On the second part of the question, I am sorry I have forgotten the precise nature of it.

**Mr. Fairweather:** Whether you are going to be the new ambassador.

**Mr. Jamieson:** I do not have any nominations at the moment, but I know of certain members opposite who would not be opposed to being approached.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### Oral Questions

#### POSSIBILITY OF CAREER DIPLOMAT REPLACING AMBASSADOR WARREN IN WASHINGTON

**Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, that rather off-hand remark by the Secretary of State for External Affairs raises the question whether the government has any disposition regarding the appointment of a career diplomat or some other type of person to this position. Can the minister indicate whether there is a disposition to appoint a career diplomat to replace Ambassador Warren in Washington?

● (1420)

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, without in the least seeking to be evasive, the hon. member knows I believe personally, and hon. members on both sides of the House agree, that there are occasions when it is appropriate to choose someone other than a career diplomat, but in this particular case absolutely no consideration has been given to who will be the next Canadian ambassador to Washington. I can assure the hon. member and the House of this.

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### HEALTH

#### ALLEGED FAILURE TO ESTABLISH PROPER STANDARDS FOR LEVEL OF ARSENIC IN AIR—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can the hon. gentleman inform the House why two years after the letter from the head of the air pollution control section of the Environment Protection Service in the Northwest, warning his colleague in Yellowknife of pending drastic reductions in arsenic permitted in the workplace, and one year after a request from the Director of the Bureau of Chemical Hazards in Health and Welfare that the Department of the Environment take steps to control arsenic air emissions because of the clear dangers from arsenic poisoning, nothing has been done to establish acceptable standards of arsenic levels in the air by his department?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** For an excellent reason, Mr. Speaker: because it is not my department that sets the standards.

[English]

**Mr. Broadbent:** In the absence of the minister who is certainly co-equal in responsibility, I am directing this question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Since his officials will play a central role in the establishment of such standards and since the warning to which I referred is more than a year old and came from an official within his department, I would like to ask him, as the man who is responsible at the national level for health standards in Canada, why he has done nothing about it.