

[English]

## PENSIONS

### PENSIONS OF CANADIAN ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL

**Mr. Neil Young (Beaches):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the hardship which will be felt by present and future retirees from the Canadian Armed Forces if the Government proceeds to deindex their pensions, would the Government assure the House that it will not proceed with that Draconian measure?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, as I have said on many occasions, we are proceeding with the review of the federal pension arrangements under the PSSA, as well as those for the Armed Forces and the RCMP. I have said time and time again that review is being done with full respect to the commitment we made as a Government and Party to be just and equitable to everyone concerned. We certainly will be just and equitable to everyone concerned.

### GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Neil Young (Beaches):** Mr. Speaker, would the Minister not agree that the Government will not live up to the commitment it made as a Party through the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands in January, 1982, when she assured Armed Forces personnel that the Conservative Party would oppose any such measure, when the Liberals tried to do the same thing?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I would only like to remind the Hon. Member that we, as a Party, have said that there were some fundamental reforms which had to be introduced to the public sector pension plans. Those reforms are meant to put the pension funds on a sound financial basis with due respect to equity and justice for all concerned. That is exactly the intent of the document now before Cabinet for discussion.

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[Translation]

## ABORTION

### THERAPEUTIC ABORTION COMMITTEE PROCEDURES—DEATH OF OTTAWA WOMAN

**Mr. Jim Jepson (London East):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice.

[English]

The people of Ottawa recently witnessed the tragedy of a young woman dying as a result of an abortion procedure after the therapeutic committee had not met with the patient to discuss her circumstances and alternatives prior to the abortion. Can the Minister indicate if there is any way our

## Oral Questions

Government can ensure that these committees fully exercise the serious responsibility given to them under our Criminal Code?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, this is a question of the administration of health and hospital services which is, of course, one of provincial responsibility. The supervision of therapeutic abortion committees in hospitals rests with provincial Governments. I am sure they will have taken note of the coroner's inquest into that matter here in Ottawa and will act accordingly to see that there is proper supervision of these committees, and that they operate in accordance with the law.

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**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Employment my question is directed to the Prime Minister. I have a letter here from that Minister when she was a member of the Opposition, in which she stated she and her Party would fight any attempt by the Government to remove indexation of servicemen's pensions. Can the Prime Minister contradict the statement of the President of the Treasury Board today and reaffirm the faith of the people that Flora MacDonald is in fact a—

**Some Hon. Members:** Order.

**Ms. Copps:** That the Minister of Employment is a Minister who keeps her word?

**Mr. Skelly:** What about six and five?

**Mr. Deans:** That was when the Liberals were introducing it.

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Employment and Immigration keeps her word, and this Government keeps its word.

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

**Mr. Ouellet:** You cut the pensions.

**Mr. de Cotret:** We have promised equity and justice in the review of public pension arrangements. At the same time we promised to put the fund on a sound financial basis, which has never been the case before. We are moving along with these commitments. We have promised to protect the rights acquired by people already in the service, and we will deliver on every one of those commitments.

### REPRESENTATIONS TO PRIME MINISTER

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the Prime Minister if he deigns to