

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

of abortion in Canada. For that growing incidence of abortion in Canada this government will have been responsible because of its lack of leadership in making birth control and birth control knowledge available to people across Canada. Lack of birth control means illegal abortion with all the misery, mutilation and death that come with this failure to face the facts of 1970. All the shibboleth, theology and mythology that can be uttered will not get us away from that fact.

The same situation exists in regard to family planning and birth control abroad. We live in a world which will have four billion people by 1975 and 14 billion people by the year 2035 if nothing is done to stop it. Canada should and could take part in helping overpopulated countries of the world reduce their birth rate while there is yet time. Should we fail to act, and soon, the poverty that now keeps two-thirds of the world's people continuously hungry will become intensified.

Intense poverty will feed on diminishing resources, and people will fight for survival. Panic and fear will breed famine, disease and war, with the spectre of the hungry two-thirds of the world turning on those who have denied them the means to develop in peace and prosperity. Along with that, Mr. Speaker, will be the spectre of our vanishing and ravaged ecology. No amount of talk on pollution on this side of the world is going to prevent people in hunger from tearing up and destroying their already lessening resources in order to keep alive. Mr. Speaker, it is for these reasons that I once again urge the government of Canada—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's time has expired.

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the need for a policy for family planning both in Canada and abroad is recognized by the government as being expedient both internally, for the administration of health and welfare programs, and internationally for representation at international organizations, health and welfare conferences.

The United Nations organizations which Canada supports are becoming increasingly engaged in various aspects of family planning. UNICEF, for example, is responding to requests by countries for aid in family planning programs. At its last annual meeting the executive board of UNICEF broadened its policy to include the supply of contraceptives,

not previously made available. The World Health Organization is also playing a major role in the population policy implementation. Similarly, the United Nations development program, which is Canada's major contribution to the United Nations, has established a population fund in the interest of family planning programs.

The government recognizes the need to support both national and international family planning programs, and it would be inconsistent for Canada to speak at international meetings in the absence of an established domestic policy in respect of family planning. The lack of a family planning policy affects not only the administration of the Department of National Health and Welfare but also the Department of External Affairs and the Canadian International Development Agency.

In conclusion, may I say that the need for a national and international policy on family planning is recognized by the government and I am pleased to inform the House that the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro) has a proposed family planning policy under active review. After he has discussed this matter with his cabinet colleagues, I expect the minister will make a statement on this matter in this place.

POST OFFICE—MONTREAL—NUMBER OF
TRUCKS PURCHASED BY DEPARTMENT

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, the other day I asked the Acting Prime Minister if he was to have an inquiry into or investigation of the costs to the Canadian government and people of the mail delivery service in Montreal resulting from the Lapalme episode. I had in mind a governmental inquiry of the departmental fiasco. I see that the then Acting Prime Minister is not here and I do not know who will be answering on his behalf.

My concern in this connection stems from the information about the costs already revealed. I am even more concerned about the costs which have not yet been announced. It was obvious that with the sustained bungling of the Postmaster General (Mr. Kierans) a very heavy bill was being chalked up through dilatory inefficiency. I must in candour admit that in this fiasco the Postmaster General had considerable help from some of his cabinet colleagues. From the reply to my question No. 1709 the House learned that the expenditure for the extra help and security guards amounted to \$657,204.45 for truck drivers and helpers