

Oral Questions

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I have replied to that question. I have said many times that every member of the House is raising money.

The minister was involved in raising money for the Liberal Party of Canada. The money has been paid and receipted according to the law. We do that. I did it in Calgary, in Edmonton, in Vancouver; I do it all over Canada. That is the way political parties function in Canada. That is the way we can ensure it is fair for all parties. Every member of Parliament has the right to solicit money from people.

If you can prove a link between a contract and a contribution, do it. If you cannot, you do not have the right to speak because it is only—

The Speaker: I ask all hon. members to please address their remarks to the Chair.

Miss Deborah Grey (Beaver River, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the Liberal red book promised to restore integrity to our political institution. It promised a Liberal government would ensure codes of conduct were met and that conflict of interest would become a thing of the past.

Only 20 months later Canadians are wondering whether anyone in the House other than the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce remembers those promises, which he campaigned on, in the red book. If the government were serious about its election commitments the Minister of Canadian Heritage would be a thing of the past.

Why has the government again broken its red book promises to restore integrity to our political institutions?

• (1445)

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, they have asked the same question 10 times. I gave the answer that the money has been paid to the Liberal Party according to the law and I have nothing else to add.

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[Translation]

CRIMINAL CODE

Mr. Michel Daviault (Ahuntsic, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister and deals with another matter.

Yesterday, the Special Senate Committee on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide tabled its report. It contains several recommendations regarding aggressive therapy, living wills, assisted suicide, euthanasia and more. The Prime Minister is already committed to a debate in this House.

Will the Prime Minister undertake to strike a House of Commons committee to review this matter, as the official opposition asked him to do last November?

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, yesterday or the day before, we received the committee's report, which is being studied by the Minister of Justice. The member's suggestion to have a House committee review the matter is an interesting one. I will bring it up with the Minister of Justice, and if it happens to be in everybody's interest to have another committee, a committee of the House this time, study the issue, personally I have no problem with this.

Mr. Michel Daviault (Ahuntsic, BQ): Mr. Speaker, regarding the issue of aggressive therapy, I would remind the Prime Minister of the 1983 Law Reform Commission report which recommended that the Criminal Code be amended, especially with regard to aggressive therapy.

Given the importance of the issue, and considering that there is general agreement to amend the Criminal Code with respect to aggressive therapy, will the Prime Minister undertake to act without delay and table a bill to this effect in this House?

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, if there is general agreement, and if the fastest route is to table a bill, I have no doubt that that is what the Minister of Justice will want to do.

On the other hand, the member asked whether we would consider having a parliamentary committee review the matter; this could be another alternative. We might want to combine both. The Minister of Justice is going to take this under advisement and report to the House when he is ready.

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POVERTY

Mrs. Eleni Bakopanos (Saint-Denis, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, in Canada a great number of women live in poverty. Quebec women have recently shown that they want governments to contribute to their economic equality.

My question is for the secretary of state for the status of women. Will the federal government take any real measures to meet the legitimate demands of women?

Hon. Sheila Finestone (Secretary of State (Multiculturalism) (Status of Women), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member for Saint-Denis for her commitment and dedication. I must say our government is profoundly committed to the principle and the development of equality for women.

We have undertaken many projects in this regard. First of all, we restored the court challenges program. The Minister of Human Resources Development tabled a bill on employment equity. The president of the Treasury Board tabled the Employment Equity Act. The Minister of Justice has taken many initiatives in order to improve the Criminal Code.