

social program in this country and deserves proper care and attention and a review before action is taken. Sometimes in the past precipitous action has led us into situations in which we have not wanted to be; indeed, former members of former governments have indicated that as they rushed into good ideas, those ideas did not turn out to be very good. The Hall report, the review of medicare, deserves to be thoroughly done and properly accommodated.

[Translation]

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF HALL COMMISSION

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Saint-Léonard-Anjou):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is also for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. If, as he says, he attaches great importance to the best program in Canada, namely, medicare, and since Mr. Justice Hall has only been granted a service contract, without the tools necessary to hold public hearings and summon witnesses, and stated at the national SOS Medicare conference that he needs those tools for those purposes, would the minister be prepared to recommend to cabinet the establishment of the Hall commission under the Inquiries Act, since such a commission does not exist, regardless of what the minister may say?

[English]

**Hon. David Crombie (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, on a few other occasions the hon. member has raised that spectre. I do not think it is particularly helpful because, as I have indicated to the House previously, Mr. Justice Hall can have whatever he needs in order to carry out the study. The current instruments that Mr. Justice Hall is using are the ones he wants. If he wants to broaden them, he need only ask. I am accepting the advice of Mr. Justice Hall, which I would commend to any member of the House.

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CANADA WORKS PROGRAM

CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECTS

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Cape Breton Highlands-Canso):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Would the minister take a look at outstanding applications for Canada Works projects that have not been approved? May I suggest that he might make it a point to clear his desk of all Nova Scotian applications today before he leaves for his constituency, including the constituency of Cape Breton Highlands-Canso?

● (1200)

**Hon. Ron Atkey (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, of course, my desk is cleared each day as projects come forward from members. I am very happy to indicate to the hon. member opposite that the Canada Works projects which are in and which have received the views of

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members of Parliament and others will be approved hopefully by the end of next week in toto.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to hear that from the minister. It seems to controvert the information I have that he has had a number of applications from my constituency on his desk for some days now, that he has moved with great alacrity to approve applications from government constituencies in Nova Scotia, but that he has been particularly slow in dealing with applications from constituencies represented by non-government members. I hope he can put my mind to rest.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Atkey:** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member opposite well knows, the process of consultation is a complex one.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Pepin:** It really is now.

**Mr. Atkey:** Perhaps, like the previous government, the process is very wide indeed. While I have had very useful input from various members of Parliament who have had the good fortune to have an allocation to their particular constituency, the process of consultation is much wider. I will act with expediency when that process is completed.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

NATIONAL UNITY

STATEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER—INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO ESTABLISH RULES OF THE GAME IN ITS RELATIONS WITH QUEBEC

**Mr. Yvon Pinard (Drummond):** My question is to the right hon. Prime Minister. It has to do with the complaint made yesterday by the Premier of Quebec. In that respect, the right hon. Prime Minister stated this morning at a press conference:

Mr. Lévesque might choose to have an ongoing confrontation with Ottawa. Should we decide to participate in that confrontation, we are going to establish the rules of the game.

Mr. Speaker, does the right hon. Prime Minister intend to establish the rules of the game by his chronic inaction with respect to everything to do with Quebec in the six months he has been in power? Does he not realize that what he is doing is penalizing and provoking all Quebecers, through his lack of understanding of the Quebec situation, and destroying all of Canada?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am surprised to find a backbencher of the former government repeating words indicating such a lack of success in the unification of Canada during the eleven years of existence of the former government. It is essential for us to approach the