

*Oral Questions*

## FUNDING OF FEDERAL CENTRE FOR AIDS

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, the point is that this is an appalling epidemic, and the Minister talks about quibbling about statistics. What we want is a commitment of action.

The appalling fact is that the total federal expenditures, as I understand it, for 1989 amount to less than \$2 million, and that is to cover research, treatment, education, and funding for community groups. Even the operating funds for the national Centre for AIDS have been held up.

Will the Minister make sure that the \$139 million which I understand was requested by the federal Centre for AIDS is made available immediately? Will he also ask for a major increase in AIDS funds to deal with this terrible disease?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Hon. Member that statistics are not the central issue, but she used them in her preamble, and I think it was only right that I responded by giving the correct figures.

Again, the Government's commitment is quite clear, and I cannot add any more to it than I already have.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

## RADIO-CANADA

## PROVISION OF SERVICES OF EQUAL QUALITY IN BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, the *Coalition pour la défense des services français de la Société Radio-Canada* has asked that annual public funding of the French network be significantly increased, to guarantee Canada's Francophones the same quality of programming and services received by Anglophones through the CBC. My question is this: Does the Minister agree that offering all Canadians the same quality of public services is a principle that should be rigorously applied?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, decisions concerning the programming budget of the French network are the sole responsibility of the Corporation. I share the Hon. Member's concern about this important issue, and that is why I announced new funding for the production and distribution of Francophone films by Telefilm Canada and more than \$15 million for dubbing. Mr. Speaker, I also informed the Standing Committee last September that the new broadcasting Bill will recognize the distinct identity of Francophones in broadcasting.

● (1450)

[English]

## FRENCH NETWORK—PRODUCTION OF QUALITY PROGRAMS

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Minister mentioned the moneys she has allotted to improve the dubbing. That will certainly not, however, account for the \$49.7 million she has lost through not putting ephemeral rights into her copyright Bill.

[Translation]

Although funding for public radio and television programming in Canada is inadequate to meet all needs, will the Minister admit that the French network does not have sufficient funds to produce the same quality of programming produced by the CBC? If so—and I am not asking the board of directors but the Minister—what concrete measures does she intend to take to deal with this situation?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I just said I announced last year that the new broadcasting Bill would recognize the distinct identity of Francophone broadcasting. Mr. Speaker, every day, I await the report from the Standing Committee.

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[English]

## TRADE

## CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—CULTURAL MATTERS

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, my question is technically for the Minister for International Trade, but the Prime Minister may want to answer it.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Is it about Meech Lake?

**Mr. Waddell:** Don't try to sidetrack me, please. It pertains to the free trade deal at the time of the negotiations.

Are we to understand that cultural matters like films, television, videos, and so on, were not on the table in terms of the free trade negotiations? I believe the Government has said that before. Are we to understand that it is true that cultural matters were not on the negotiating table?

Was there any other deal at the side of the table, or off the table, between the Canadian negotiators or the Canadian Government and the United States negotiators?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, is it the expression that the result of the cooking is in the pudding? It is something like that. If the hon. gentleman will examine the free trade agreement he will see that the cultural industries are excluded from its provisions.