

Oral Questions

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member will recognize that the method of financing hospital insurance and medical care in this country would not allow me to use such a bludgeon against provincial governments or hospitals in particular.

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COMMUNICATIONS**CABLEVISION—REQUEST FOR EARLY APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS TO IMPROVE RECEPTION IN MANITOBA**

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Communications. Possibly he and I can communicate somewhat. In view of the fact that applications dating back to June, 1973, have been made to improve cable television reception in Manitoba by locating antennae in southeastern Manitoba and then utilizing microwave signals to improve reception, in Winnipeg, and in view of the fact that two hearings of the CRTC have already been held without the CRTC either accepting or rejecting an application, would the minister indicate when a decision on this application can be expected so that already existing television cable reception can be improved in Manitoba?

● (1540)

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I do not make the decisions for the CRTC, and neither do I make up their schedule. Surely they are making all possible efforts to get the best reception for Manitoba. There is a decision pending, but unless the hon. member gives me a few days to inquire I cannot tell him when the decision will be issued.

Mr. Epp: In view of the fact that CRTC hearings are scheduled for Winnipeg on May 14, and in view of the fact that no application can be heard without the CRTC calling for applications from interested parties and that so far the CRTC has not done this, would the minister undertake to impress upon the CRTC that it should ask for applications to extend cable television reception in Manitoba in order that applications may be made on behalf of areas where cable television reception, even at best, practically is non-existent or does not exist at all?

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seems to me that the hon. member's supplementary is more in the form of a representation, and he has to assume that it has been noted.

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[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY**OLD AGE PENSIONS—INTENTION OF GOVERNMENT RESPECTING PAYMENT OF SAME AMOUNT TO ALL PERSONS**

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Does the minister intend to do away with inquiries, in abolishing the guaranteed income supplement for all

[Mr. Beatty.]

needy older persons and is he considering some legislative amendment so that each pensioner would receive the same pension, thus removing some injustices?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, we have surely no intention of abolishing the guaranteed income supplement and of making monthly payments of \$110 to all older persons. I will not therefore consider any such proposal.

Mr. Latulippe: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Does the minister intend to amend the Old Age Security Act so that married couples will be entitled to maximum pension and supplement, just like married couples that separate to obtain those benefits?

Mr. Lalonde: Most plans in force throughout the world provide for married couples benefits which are slightly inferior to double those of single persons for the simple reason that their cost of living is less than double that of the single person. Once again, I do not foresee any such amendment in the near future.

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IMMIGRATION**INQUIRY WHETHER QUEBEC HAS MADE ITS POLICY KNOWN TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the hon. Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Has Quebec communicated to the federal government, officially or unofficially, its orientation and policy for immigration, and are there discussions or negotiations on the matter between Quebec and Ottawa?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we have been presented with the views of the government of Quebec through my counterpart, Mr. Bienvenue, on two occasions. They are not conclusive nor is the Quebec government seeking, in my opinion, immediate answers. They are, in my opinion, part of the ongoing process of examining immigration policies, but we will be responding to the minister in the future.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe. Order, please. We have reached the end of the question period.

[Translation]

Perhaps the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe could ask his supplementary, and then I shall recognize the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe.

Mr. Wagner: I thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Is he prepared to give the provinces, particularly Quebec which filed a request, the right to take part in the selection and recruiting of immigrants?

[English]

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, this involves the degree to which that right is exercised. There are already co-opera-