

Oral Questions

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I said that we recognize the problem of consumption of alcohol, particularly for pregnant women.

The question he raised would normally be considered by the Minister of National Health and Welfare because so far British Columbia is the only province where that issue has been raised in Canada, but discussions at the health minister level are wanted. If there is a unanimous position by the ministers of health in Canada to do something about it, we will certainly consider their recommendation.

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THE CONSTITUTION

Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel): My question is for the Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs.

Last September the Government of Canada said it was in favour of entrenching property rights in the Canadian Constitution. Is that still the government's position?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Privy Council and Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the House knows, the government had proposed the entrenchment of property rights. That was discussed in public hearings across the country. There was not a great deal of support evident in those public hearings, and that recommendation did not receive the unanimous support of the House in the report of the special joint committee.

The matter is still being considered by ministers in the meetings that will commence again next week. At some point in that process we are going to have to reduce the constitutional agenda to those items which can command enough support to be carried into the Constitution.

I would hope that Canadians who are interested in the question of property rights would make their views known quickly to all governments as we get into these next stages of the constitutional discussions.

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PACKAGING AND LABELLING

Mr. David Bjornson (Selkirk—Red River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

As the House knows, the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is spending a great deal of time in forcing packaging regulations by Canadian manufacturers while ignoring the enforcement of the same regulations on imported goods.

Could the minister please tell the House if he is considering shifting the efforts of his department to the enforcement of Canadian regulations on imported goods?

Hon. Pierre Blais (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Minister of State (Agriculture)): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. It is a very important issue and we recognize that.

With my colleague, the Minister of National Revenue, since 1989 we have enforced a joint team at the borders to look after that issue. Mislabeling is important to us. We are doing everything we can to make sure that the regulations which apply to Canada also apply to the Americans and to people from other countries.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for whoever is speaking for the Minister of National Defence.

Three weeks ago the Minister of National Defence said he was cancelling the promised \$100 million supply depot in Moncton for budget reasons. On Thursday the minister announced a \$10 million expansion at another site.

Three weeks ago we did not have any money and now we have the money. If it was not economically feasible three weeks ago, why is it now suddenly politically feasible? Are there two pots of money or is there a double standard?

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister Responsible for Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, as the minister indicated in the House last week, what we have proceeded with is a consolidation of our supply operations throughout Canada. We have taken the existing five depots and consolidated them into two. That will result in an annual saving of approximately \$35 million. That obviously is consistent with the requirements that our department has to help reach the deficit reduction requirements.