

*Oral Questions*

Will the Minister also tell the House why did he last fall, on October 7 when he issued a press release, make false threats against bar owners who had TVRO's that were unlicensed, only to flip-flop on the policy yesterday?

**Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications):** Madam Speaker, I know that there are games that parliamentarians play, and I know full well that if I had come out yesterday with the CBC policy the Hon. Member would have said that I had cast aside the Applebaum-Hébert Report, that I had not allowed sufficient debate to take place in the community, that I had not allowed the Standing Committee on Culture and Communications of the House to pronounce itself on the Applebaum-Hébert Report, and on the models they proposed for the CBC.

I have yet to hear any informed comments by the Hon. Member on how he thinks the CBC ought to develop in the months to come. In the absence of that type of informed comment, I have of course asked the Board of the CBC to let me have their comments on how they see the CBC developing. My own officials are examining the situation, and I trust that during the course of examination of the Applebaum-Hébert Committee Report by the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture, over the next month or so, I will indeed have the advice of that Committee before any hard and fast decisions are taken.

In the meantime, obviously the CBC, which, as I indicated yesterday, is a crucial component of the Canadian broadcasting system, will continue to operate and the private broadcasters will continue to live with a strong public broadcasting component in the Canadian broadcasting system.

POLICY ON LEGALITY OF SATELLITE RECEIVING DISH ANTENNAS

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe):** Madam Speaker, on this side of the House we will be glad to give the Minister all the advice that he wants. We know that he needs a great deal of it. Will he now answer the question I asked before about his flip-flop on bars and, secondly, can he confirm that in fact he told a reporter yesterday that, on two elements of his policy, the two out of four that required parliamentary action, he did not intend to introduce legislation until September? This would likely result in no action being taken until after the next election. When is the Minister going to get moving?

● (1420)

**Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications):** Madam Speaker, on the question of dish antennas, the policy statement made by the Government yesterday was to the effect that we wanted to ensure that Canadians who live in remote areas, particularly those who live in the northern part of Provinces such as Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, like their cousins from the south, have access to a comparable range of programming. We feel that because of the type of satellite development we have gone through with

Canadian industries over the past ten years in the development of technology, that technology should be made available to Canadians in all parts of the country. Indeed, we have opened to Canadians living in all parts of the country access to what I consider to be one of the finest broadcasting systems in the world.

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HEALTH

CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION TASK FORCE—REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT CO-OPERATE

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Health and Welfare I will direct my question to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister will know that earlier this day the Canadian Medical Association announced the formation of a task force to look into the allocation of health care resources. This task force is, I believe, in response, to the lack of action on the part of the Government, and growing concern about the medical care crisis which is expressed by professional groups, including doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, and by lay groups including churches, unions, and so on. Can the Prime Minister tell us whether or not the CMA request that they receive co-operation from the Government will in fact be met? Will the Government be co-operating with that task force?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Madam Speaker, but I will be happy to take notice of the question on behalf of the Minister.

FUNDING FOR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Madam Speaker, the crisis in health care is partly a funding crisis. The Prime Minister has announced his intention to hold a First Ministers' conference to deal with the economy. Can the Prime Minister tell us if on that agenda he will be dealing with the issue of money for the health care system before it is too late and too many people die?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the meeting I am planning with the Premiers on the economy is to deal with the middle and longer-term issues. The Ministers of Finance will be meeting next week and they will be dealing with the short-term issues. I think they will be dealing mainly with the economic issues. In so far as health and welfare issues are concerned, they will, of course, be dealt with by the responsible Minister.

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BROADCASTING

GOVERNMENT STRATEGY—POLICY ON CABLE COMPANIES

**Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody):** Madam Speaker, my question to the Minister of Communications is really