

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

**CORPORATIONS**

## INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL MODIFY BILL S-31

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Yesterday, the Minister appeared before a Senate Committee to comment on Bill S-31, and when questioned by the press when he came out, he said he was willing to accept amendments to Bill S-31 which would have the Bill concentrate on pension funds rather than on provincial agencies or corporations, as is the case in the present Bill. Could the Minister repeat in the House today that he is willing to amend the Bill in order to restrict its application to pension fund institutions, and if so, could he inform the House whether the Alberta Heritage Fund could be exempted from Bill S-31?

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I said before the Senate Committee that we would examine all draft proposals that were of any interest. I made it clear that both in the Senate and in the House of Commons, Members had an interest in the Bill, that a committee of Liberal Members was examining the Bill and that I was quite open to constructive amendments. I did not, however, specify the nature of those amendments. A journalist told me about the proposal formulated before the Senate by the President of the Montreal Stock Exchange. I said it was an interesting proposal that would be considered, but I did not specify, as the Hon. Member seems to want to imply, that such an amendment would be accepted. I think it is too early at this stage to conclude whether an amendment of this kind would benefit or would adversely affect the general scope of the Bill.

## EFFECT OF BILL ON PENSION FUNDS

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Madam Speaker, so according to the Minister, and for the information of the people of Canada, the newspaper article is wrong when it says that the Minister is prepared to amend the Bill by making it apply only to pension funds. I think it is important that the Minister should inform the House whether he is willing to narrow his Bill down to the point where it would apply only to pension funds.

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** I think the article to which the Hon. Member is referring is headed: Ouellet says he is open to amendments. That is what I said and what I maintain. As for the kind of amendments, I have not been specific on that, with the Senators or with the press. I think it is too early at this stage to start speculating on one kind of amendment or another. I just want to make it clear, Madam Speaker, that as with any other bill tabled in Parliament, often amendments are made to improve legislation, and this proves how flexible and how open we are to concrete suggestions.

• (1450)

[English]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

## PROPOSED PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION REFERENDUM

**Mr. Ian Watson (Châteauguay):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and relates to a meeting I had recently with Yassar Arafat, Chairman of the PLO, to discuss peace prospects in the Middle East. Mr. Arafat indicated strong support for a Palestine-Jordan Confederation and stressed his support for Article 7 of the Arab Fez Summit Declaration which urges the guarantee of the security of the boundaries of all the states in the region, including Israel. He indicated that he would favour the idea of a U.N.-administered referendum of Palestinians living on the West Bank, in Gaza and East Jerusalem, to determine who the Palestinians wanted to negotiate for them.

Would the Prime Minister say whether he is willing to consider the idea of such a referendum, and whether Canada might consult with its allies to promote such a referendum as an important step toward meaningful negotiations for a Middle East peace settlement?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, in reply to the question I would begin by saying that the Government hopes and it is its policy that the inhabitants of the occupied territories will some way eventually be able to express their views in a free and unfettered fashion. This, after all, is one of the principles which was recognized in the Camp David Accords which provide for self-governing of the authorities of those territories.

On the principle of the choice by the inhabitants of the area of who should represent them, the Government is in accord. Whether this electoral process should proceed under the U.N. supervision, or in the way suggested in his question by the Hon. Member for Châteauguay, is something that I have not had occasion to discuss with the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Therefore, I cannot speak for him on this particular modality of expression of opinion by the inhabitants.

I would be prepared to say that this should be a matter which should be negotiated between the parties themselves as to what is the best method of having free expression by the inhabitants of those territories, on their representatives. It is something for the parties involved to discuss amongst themselves. Whether having the United Nations supervising the electoral process is the correct method or not, I am not prepared to say at this time.

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**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

## SUGGESTED SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR RECIPIENTS

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In view of the 1.5 million unemployed