

Oral Questions

DATE OF FINAL FINN REPORT—ACTION TO ENSURE PROPER HEALTH CONDITIONS IN ELEVATOR AT HALIFAX

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): In view of all the speculation in western Canada, when can we expect to see the final report, because people are really becoming concerned about it?

At the same time can the minister tell us, in view of the statement by the manager of the National Harbours Board elevator in Halifax, that health conditions there are also unacceptable, what action he will take to remedy that situation as well?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): I can let the hon. member know of many of the findings of Dr. Finn's inquiry and of other studies we have commissioned or table in the House the extensive degree of work that has been done in this area which applies to grain elevators everywhere in Canada, in Thunder Bay, Halifax and other places, because they deal with some of the fundamental questions of health hazards for the men involved of grain dust of various kinds. It is a highly technical area. I hope the report will be applicable throughout the entire grain industry in terms of the protection of the men involved.

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[Translation]

HEALTH

POSSIBILITY OF BROADENING CRIMINAL CODE

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Can the minister explain clearly to the House what he meant by his statement on March 4 last with regard to medical clinic care for women? In other words, does he intend to broaden the interpretation of the notion "endangering the mother's health" to achieve no more and no less than abortion on demand?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker.

MINISTER'S REPLY TO REPRESENTATIONS OF UNION FOR LIFE

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, has the minister read all the requests addressed to him in this regard, and specially that of the Pro-Life movement which is now holding a festival for life here in Ottawa, and what does he intend to do further to those requests?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I replied to those requests saying that they seemed to be based on a misinterpretation of what I said. And once again, it is not a question of broadening the interpretation of the law as it now stands.

[English]

INQUIRY WHETHER FAMILY PLANNING CENTRES WILL COUNSEL IN FAVOUR OF ABORTION

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): I would like to ask the minister by way of a supplementary question whether he would clarify if it is his intention that the family planning centres to which he referred on March 4 will be counselling in favour of abortion as a family planning technique.

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM

DATE PROGRAM WILL END—ALLEGED FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT TO PUT POSITION ON VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT BEFORE LABOUR AND MANAGEMENT

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. Yesterday evening the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce stated in the House that the recent appointment of the new chairman of AIB indicated that the program will not end by the end of 1977. Would the Acting Prime Minister indicate if this is government policy?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister): I think that the appointment of Mr. Renouf as chairman of the board is not to be interpreted as a presentiment of an early end of the controls program. The Minister of Finance has frequently stated that the controls program could end only if a firm understanding were reached as to the economic behaviour that would avoid any burst of inflation. So that is the position of the government.

● (1130)

Mr. Stevens: A supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. The parliamentary secretary also said that controls will not end because the government cannot expect voluntary restraint, yet in the *Financial Post* of May 7 a front page article carries a report of the former AIB chairman, Jean-Luc Pepin which is particularly critical of the government for failing to spell out its position on voluntary restraint. It reports him as saying the government should have done this two weeks ago at its tri-partite meeting with big business and big labour. Would the Acting Prime Minister indicate if Mr. Pepin conveyed this view to the ministry before his resignation and if so, what answer did he receive?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, we are accustomed to receiving advice from many sources and frequently good advice from the former chairman of the Anti-Inflation Board. I am not directly aware of any such discussion, which would probably have taken place between the former chairman of the board and the Minister of Finance, but the general position of the