

*Oral Questions*

[English]

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, that Member is against families that earn \$10,000 getting an increase.

**Mr. Ouellet:** Answer the question.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Epp (Provencher):** He is against reducing the tax exemption which is of greater benefit to those who have higher incomes, in order to provide benefits for those who have lower incomes.

**Mr. Ouellet:** Be in Montreal on Wednesday.

**Mr. Malépart:** Mulroney, you are too afraid!

**Mr. Epp (Provencher):** I would like the Member to note the headlines, "Benefits Make More Sense", and "Opposition Guns are off Target".

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Malépart:** Come to Montreal. The public will speak to you.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** What a buffoon.

**Mr. Axworthy:** It takes one to know one, Michael.

**Mr. Gauthier:** There's the specialist buffoon over there.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Just another five or six minutes. The Hon. Member for Essex-Windsor.

\* \* \*

**TRADE**

## CANADA-UNITED STATES DISCUSSIONS

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister who continues to practise secrecy and vagueness with respect to free trade moves with the United States. For instance, this morning at his press conference he refused to make it clear whether agriculture would be on the table for negotiation.

Why is it that, despite the assurances he gave to the House last week, there have been no public signals given of the Government's intentions on free trade with the United States, even though the six-month deadline since the Shamrock Summit has passed?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, we will be responding in due course in an appropriate manner which has already been determined. There has been no variation or change in the position. I might suggest to my hon. friend that he get onside with the Premier of Manitoba on this issue.

**Mr. Langdon:** Mr. Speaker, I suspect that the Prime Minister will discover, to his chagrin, that the reservations that have been expressed by the Premier of Manitoba about free trade are precisely those reservations important to us.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor):** My supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. Why is he not prepared to clear up, clearly and unambiguously, the uncertainties that are developing across the country, by accepting the unanimous recommendations of the Special Joint Committee on this subject that the Auto Pact, the agricultural sector, and our cultural industries not be put on the table in any freer trade discussions that do take place?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have indicated to the satisfaction, I hope, of all Members of the House that, prior to engaging in any commercial discussions of this nature, there will be adequate consultation with the Premiers. On Saturday I had a lengthy telephone conversation with Premier Peterson during which we reviewed some of his concerns which we were able to accommodate in structuring our response. We have been talking to trade unions and the private sector and discussing this openly in the House of Commons. There has been no hesitation or variation. We believe the answer to unemployment is through more trade and we are looking for fair and equal opportunities in a tremendous market I think that is in the interests of the unemployed and of all Canadians.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

\* \* \*

**HEALTH**

## AVAILABILITY OF HEROIN FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT OF PAIN

**Mr. Ken James (Sarnia-Lambton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. On September 9, 1985, the Minister detailed the plans for the reintroduction of heroin to alleviate intractable pain associated with malignant illnesses. Can the Minister clarify for the many Canadians who suffer grave and excruciating pain daily when this drug will be made available to these patients who eagerly await its use?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Member for the question. The matter of reintroduction of heroin for medical purposes, and specifically for the treatment of intractable pain, has been dealt with very carefully. We have made heroin available under extremely tight conditions in hospitals, with the decision for its use to be made by medical officers. We hope that the drug will be available from a U.K. supplier by the middle to the end of October. The only issue now is the matter of supply from the distributor and security once in Canada.