

Oral Questions

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, somewhat prior to, during and after the hon. member's motion under Standing Order 43 the government was looking into this matter. We have had representations at the Geneva conference and I am pleased to say that in co-operation with my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, we will triple the number from 70 families per month to just about 200 families per month. For 1979 we will take 5,000 refugees from Indo-China.

In addition to that, we will double the amount of our contribution to the budget of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees from \$1 million to \$2 million. That, of course, will be in addition to the moneys we are already contributing to many refugee camps around the world.

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HEALTH AND WELFARE**HEALTH CARE OF NATIVE PEOPLES**

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I can appreciate the shouting from the Liberal side: they have to shout since closure has been introduced to stop them from speaking on a bill they oppose.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: My question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark: I can wait, sir, until they stop their shouting and their moaning.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark: My question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare is supplementary to those posed by my colleague, the hon. member for Athabasca, which the minister did not answer, preferring instead to put up a fog of emotion.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Miss Bégin: What kind of emotion?

Mr. Clark: A fog of emotion. The minister is having difficulty hearing me because of her colleagues' shouting.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

● (1142)

Mr. Clark: I am trying to create a situation for the minister where her colleagues will let her hear me.

My question is: why did the minister break her word today to the maritime chiefs, that she would meet them in the maritimes, by sending them a telex changing the venue of the meeting to Ottawa?

[Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi).]

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition in trying to develop his credibility by talking only about what he thinks is serious—cuts, constraints, restraints and economic problems. He is not interested in the social sector at all.

He becomes nervous when I use emotion when talking about undue accusations with regard to the lives of people in this country. I will continue to use emotion, and if the hon. gentleman does not know what to do with his emotions, he is not ready to be the leader of a country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Miss Bégin: Mr. Speaker, the politicking which is taking place this morning does not help to solve a very serious issue, which is the apparent misunderstanding in Indian communities of the guidelines that are merely intended for my staff to make sense of and control expenditures relating to four items regarding uninsured health expenditures. I name them often, and everybody knows they have nothing to do with the lives of people.

I would like to inform the House that I never committed myself to go to the maritime provinces on a specific date but, rather, that I would try to go there because it is less expensive than to have huge delegations come to Ottawa. Since that day, new developments have taken place. I mentioned the CBC report but the Leader of the Opposition, of course, was not listening. I mentioned an interview which took place in front of millions of Canadians and gave dangerously wrong facts. Therefore, the situation has changed.

I cannot go to the ten provinces on the same day in the month of January. Therefore, I had to ask for the co-operation of the chiefs and I invited them to meet me in Ottawa immediately after the opening of parliament, on January 24. I hope that I will have the co-operation of the Leader of the Opposition on this matter and that he will ask the opposition critic, the hon. member for Athabasca, to stop this unacceptable form of politicking.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, it escapes the understanding of most of us why a broadcast on the CBC makes it impossible for the minister to move about in the country, but I suppose if she feels incapable of defending her policy the CBC is as good an organization to blame it on as any other organization.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark: The firm commitment which the minister gave to the native people of the maritime provinces is on the record of *Hansard* and she will have to live with it.

My question relates to a statement made in May by the president of the Indian Association of Alberta whose claim is, as president of an organization directly responsible for people whose lives he feels will be in danger, that actions being