

rate of inflation, faster than the rate of all other Government spending, and much much faster than the rate of Government program spending—

Ms. Copps: You won't be around to see it.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):—all of which are designed to ensure that we can continue to have a first rate health system and a first rate post-secondary education system in this country.

An Hon. Member: Another broken promise.

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HEALTH

POSSIBLE USE OF DEPO-PROVERA AS CONTRACEPTIVE

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It concerns the possibility of his Department giving approval to the use of Depo-Provera for use as a female contraceptive. In view of the fact that some 13 national organizations have come together, along with a host of community organizations, in opposition to the use of this contraceptive, will the Minister assure the House that there will be full public hearings held across the country with respect to the concerns of those organizations, and many other Canadians, about the possible dangers of this contraceptive so that those groups can have full public input into that decision?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the Hon. Member, and the House, that there is a regulatory process. I have heard much in this House that Ministers are to be very careful about interfering in the regulatory process. I say to the Hon. Member that I have not had, as Minister, a report from the appropriate committee, nor a recommendation from the appropriate committee, nor a recommended decision from the appropriate committee. But I have gone one step further. I have discussed the matter of whether or not we could have the input. I have said to the Hon. Member, and I have said to the public through the media yesterday, that if there are groups which would like to meet with officials as they go through the regulatory process, that could be arranged.

● (1440)

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, that simply is not good enough. There is a place for the public to have input on decisions which will adversely affect a large number of Canadians. Will the Minister not reconsider that decision and agree that full public hearings are required where the public can examine a decision which can adversely affect the lives not only of mothers and children but future generations?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, it is good enough, because it is exactly what he

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asked us to do. It is good enough because if there is to be public input it can come through the regulatory process. I am going to keep the regulatory process sacrosanct, as I think he has generally asked me to do.

The second point is that no decision has been made and no recommendation received. The appropriate time for that kind of input is exactly the time I suggested to him.

The last point I want to make is that he should not, and I hope he does not, make the argument that this Minister or his Department has compromised on health and safety or that there will be any such compromise.

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CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN

AID FOR NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERMAN FOLLOWING DONATION OF KIDNEY

Mr. Lawrence I. O'Neil (Cape Breton Highlands-Canso): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment. Yesterday she indicated to the House that special efforts would be made to ensure support for Harvey Hawkins, the Newfoundland man who is recovering in hospital after donating a kidney to his younger sister. Can the Minister provide any new information on the success of those efforts?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I mentioned yesterday that I had been in touch with the provincial Governments concerned. I can advise the House that yesterday Mr. Hawkins received assistance under the Canada Assistance Plan and provincial plans which is at least equal to the amount he would have received from unemployment insurance. As well, arrangements have been made for his family to be brought to Toronto to be with him. I am sure that we all agree on wishing Mr. Hawkins a speedy recovery.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

GRANT AWARDED TO LOBSTER COMPANY PRESIDENT

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. I remind him that on September 9 he said that the ultimate responsibility for the conflict of interest guidelines rested with him. A grant worth millions of dollars was awarded to Clearwater Lobster Ltd. last week, or John Risley, depending on whose press release one reads. The Minister of Supply and Services has been a director and the secretary of the company, as well as being the company's lawyer, has owned shares in the company, and his son is employed by the company. In view of that would the Prime Minister not agree that there is at least a possible breach of the principles of the conflict of interest guidelines?