

*Supply*

## SPEAKER'S RULING

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member who has raised this matter has wound up the exchange and has made his position very clear. The question of confidence, of course, lies with the government. The hon. House leader has made the position of the government very clear. He has also put forward a suggestion which he says he is prepared to discuss with hon. members. It seems to me that there is time to have those discussions before the day is over if hon. members wish to do so, but short of that I think we must proceed with orders of the day.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Lapierre:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is this on the same matter?

**Mr. Lapierre:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** So this is another matter. Very well. The hon. member for Shefford.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ALLOWED DURING  
QUESTION PERIOD

**Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order because I would like to hear your interpretation of what happened during Question Period when our New Democratic Party colleagues asked a question about the success or lack of success of Versatile in Vancouver. Subsequently, they asked a supplementary about the honey industry.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to know whether you allowed this question on honey, bees, queen bees and the rest, because of some connection with Versatile. I would like to know what the rules are on supplementary questions, because we know you are very strict about applying the Standing Orders where the Bloc Quebecois is concerned. So I would like to know the connection between Versatile and the honey industry.

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** I think I can say to the hon. member that I will look at the context in which the question was asked. I would say on the surface if the supplementary should be linked to the principal question, but I wonder if the hon. member would let me look at the matter and I will

get back to him. Prima facie the hon. member is correct in his interpretation.

---

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S. O. 81—HEALTH CARE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Pagtakhan (p. 18648).

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** At the suspension of the debate at one o'clock, the opposition had the floor. I recognize the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain for 10 minutes.

**Ms. Beth Phinney (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, as I rise today, I feel a deep sense of history. I do not believe, as perhaps the government would assert, that this is a debate about financial realities. This debate is in fact about the nature of our country, Canada.

Great nations of the world are not simply held together by geographic boundaries. Witness the Soviet Union today. Nor are they united, in the final analysis, by words written in a constitution. At the heart of all great nations is a common belief in a set of fundamental principles.

Canadians have developed, through 123 years of history, a mutual understanding of what their country represents. Through their elected representatives they have legislated a social contract. This social contract essentially states that we each look out for not just ourselves, but each other, and that fundamental services in society such as health care should be equal in both quality and accessibility to all Canadians.

• (1520)

This government, I would assert, has set about through its eight years in office to destroy what had taken Canadians the previous 115 years to build: a sense of nationhood. The development of the principles of Canadian nationhood, I believe, can be closely charted alongside the development of our medical care system. How a society cares for its sick, elderly and disabled reflects on its most basic principles.