

Oral Questions

Canada Free Trade Agreement has no connection whatever with provincial laws that might or might not apply in the field of workers' compensation or any of these other programs. Nor does it affect in any way social security programs and regional development. The hon. gentleman and the other members of the Official Opposition who go around giving out these outrageous falsehoods are lucky that they were not made of wood like Pinocchio, or the same result would occur.

PROTECTION OF WORKERS

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, the Minister for International Trade may want to tell jokes, but the people in Oakville are concerned about the replacement of their plant in 1992. Mr. Harrigan said it may not be profitable as long as there are provincial laws protecting workers, and such things as overtime and workers' compensation.

Mr. McDermid: Tell Bob Rae to ask Peterson that question.

Mr. Murphy: People are concerned about the tariff protection being removed by free trade. Will the Minister rise in this House and explain how those people will be protected when that tariff protection is taken away?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I happen to have visited Oakville. I do not know when the hon. gentleman last visited there, but I visited the Ford Truck Plant in Oakville on Monday and I found a surprising receptivity among the members of the CAW who have not all been brainwashed by Bob White or the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: Would you like to have a vote there?

Mr. Crosbie: I might say that all across Canada I find people wondering why the Leader of the New Democratic Party wants \$8 billion in investment in Oshawa from General Motors but does not want to see that kind of investment anywhere else in Canada, and fights against it for the rest of Canada.

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[Translation]

HEALTH

AIDS—RISKS TO HEALTH

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare and once again concerns AIDS.

As I said yesterday, two years ago a committee of this House recommended launching a major campaign against AIDS to promote research, education and health care. The resources subsequently allocated by the Government were

clearly inadequate and did not reflect the advice our committee received from eminent experts and physicians.

I find it hard to understand why the Government bothers to call in these experts if it subsequently rejects their recommendations. My question to the Minister is this: Why is the Government taking such risks with the health of Canadians?

[English]

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the Government is not ignoring the advice of experts with respect to AIDS. That is why the Government has the National Advisory Committee on AIDS.

I think it is my responsibility when public statements are made, either by members of that committee or for that matter by Members in this House, for example, that money was not available and that the committee could not meet so I could get further advice. My officials have checked that out both with the Chairman, Dr. Norbert Gilmore from Montreal, as well as with the secretariat. That is not the case. Despite that we have been analysing the recommendations made by the Royal Society on testing, for example. I am sure the Hon. Member knows that because he is a responsible Member. He knows that there are very serious implications with any recommendations, pro or con, with respect to testing. We are following the advice and are looking at it very closely.

• (1440)

I think what is at issue, and the Hon. Member did not ask about this, is the matter of funding for the recommendations that have been made. That goes back to the statements I made both in the House and outside it, and reconfirmed yesterday by the Prime Minister in the House, that is, that the Government is looking at funding for those recommendations. As I said yesterday, those announcements will be made in due course.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, I have seen the new study that has been produced by the Royal Society, but I remind him again of a study by a committee of this House which was done over two years ago. The sum total of the Government's actions did not meet the thrust of the recommendations and the sense of urgency that the committee of this House tried to convey two years ago.

I have little confidence, and I wonder why Canadians should have confidence today, that the Government will deal with a problem which could be perhaps the most pressing national health problem of the 1980s.

When dealing with a problem which has been described—

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member will want to put his question.