

**Mr. Nystrom:** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has had since Friday to have a conversation with his Principal Secretary to see whether or not the Minister of Energy brought to the attention of the Principal Secretary the possibility of a conflict of interest concerning one of his Ministers back in November of 1986. What I want to know is whether or not he has spoken with his Principal Secretary. Can he confirm now that such a conversation took place? Yes or no. Do not try to skate around it.

● (1440)

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, this is one of the most unusual suggestions that I have heard. My hon. friend, based on rumour and speculation and unsubstantiated information, is asking me whether I will conduct a witch-hunt throughout the Government of Canada today with respect to that rumour, tomorrow with respect to another rumour. Then the next day it will be in regard to another rumour.

If members of the NDP want to indulge in witch-hunts and McCarthyism, they can do it themselves in their own Party. I will not inflict it upon the Public Service of Canada.

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## HEALTH

### AIDS DISEASE—EFFECT ON HOMOSEXUAL COMMUNITY— EDUCATIONAL POLICY

**Mr. Jim Jepson (London East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare. As the House knows, the Minister recently returned from a national AIDS conference in England. Canadians continue to see the AIDS epidemic increase with alarming results.

Bearing in mind that the greatest purveyors of this disease in North America continue to be the homosexual community, can he tell the House whether or not education is having any significant results when it comes to the lifestyles of the homosexual community and others?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, at the London conference the main agenda item was how we best, as Ministers of Health, could convey to our respective populations the need to take personal decisions for personal health care and specifically the spread of AIDS, and what educational messages might be most appropriate and most effective. The evidence of that was shown. Obviously it varies dramatically from country to country. There are various reasons for that, including demography and different religious, moral and social mores.

What is clear is that at the moment there is no cure. There is no projected period of time for a cure. Education is the best approach at this time. All of us recognize as well that, while

education is necessary, the evidence of changed behaviour in high-risk groups was not nearly as direct as many of us had hoped for.

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## TRADE

### DUTY REMISSION PROGRAM FOR TEXTILE AND APPAREL INDUSTRIES

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industrial Economic Expansion. Yesterday in the House I posed a question to his colleague, the Minister of State for Finance, concerning the proposed government development of a duty remission program for the textile and apparel industries. I asked the question in light of the letters that had been issued by the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee in the United States asking that any program like that be altered in hostage to the proposed trade agreement.

The Minister of State for Finance said that the Government has no position on this issue. However, I have in my possession a letter written by the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion which says that, with regard to duty remission programs, the Government has long been on record as favouring these for both the apparel and the textile industries.

In light of the fact that there is now a contradiction between the two Ministers, I ask the Minister if we can be assured that the Government still intends to proceed with a major, comprehensive duty remission program for the textile and apparel industry, and that it will not concede to the kinds of demands that are now being placed as hostage to the trade agreement.

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that his concerns are premature. Considerable work is going on in this field, and I remind him that the free trade agreement provides for the bringing in of further duty remission programs within the text of the free trade agreement. The nature and the timing of these programs are still under discussion.

### GOVERNMENT POSITION ON DUTY REMISSION

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to the Hon. Minister for International Trade that it is hardly premature when there is a clear statement signed by 10 Senators who will be considering the Government's proposed trade agreement, indicating that they do not intend to proceed unless there are clear answers from the Government indicating that it will not go ahead with the duty remission program.

In light of that circumstance, will the Minister tell us the nature of the discussions that took place between Mr. Yeutter of the U.S. administration and members of this administration concerning the duty remission program? Why will the