

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Ouellet:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that the contract was awarded in accordance with the established criteria—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

**Mr. Ouellet:** —that is the standards which were in effect at CIDA when the Leader of the Opposition was a member of the Conservative government. These criteria have not changed. They are still the same as when the opposition leader was a member of the previous government.

Mr. Saada is competent, he does an excellent job and he is being paid for the work he is carrying out.

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[English]

**INDIAN AFFAIRS**

**Mr. Bill Gilmour (Comox—Alberni, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, we hear an awful lot from the Liberal government about sustainable development.

I flew to Stoney Reserve last Friday. The sustainable cut on that reserve was 600 truckloads per year. What went out was 14,000 truckloads per year. Twenty-five to thirty years of sustainable wood went out in one year.

Why did the minister of Indian affairs allow this to happen?

**Hon. Ron Irwin (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I will repeat the same answer. Why can that party not be so forthright in directing us and the Solicitor General to send the RCMP into B.C. and charge these companies there with the money, knowing what they were doing was incorrect? Why is that party not saying that? Why is it leaving the impression this is Indian wrongdoing?

There is a heavier onus on the cutters in B.C. from big companies who know the law, who have lawyers, who have money and have the skills to do exactly what they did. Their chainsaws did it.

**Mr. Bill Gilmour (Comox—Alberni, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, the minister would have us believe people from B.C. would float into the Indian reserve and take those trees out. Where is the responsibility of the minister? Where is the responsibility of Indian affairs?

Again, why did he allow this to happen on the Indian reserve when it is his responsibility to make sure it does not happen?

**Hon. Ron Irwin (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I hope this is the last supplementary. I want to advise the hon. member that as of March 31 the RCMP has been in, has made a seizure and has laid a charge.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

**The Speaker:** It is a good thing Wednesday only comes once a week.

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**BOVINE SOMATOTROPIN**

**Mr. John O'Reilly (Victoria—Haliburton, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know how I could have been so lucky to draw Wednesday to ask a question.

My question is for the Minister of Health. As the minister is aware, recombinant bovine somatotropin cannot be sold or used commercially in Canada.

• (1450)

Knowing the controversy surrounding the use of rbST, even among dairy farmers, can the minister tell the House about how her department is dealing with this decision and when Canadian dairy farmers can expect an answer on compliance from the Minister of Health?

**Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, rbST has not been approved for sale in Canada. Its use is illegal in Canada.

Scientists at the Bureau of Veterinary Drugs are reviewing the drug. It will be approved only when the scientists have determined it is safe and effective.

At this time there also is a voluntary moratorium to which the company that would be producing rbST has agreed. However, the moratorium has absolutely nothing to do with the approval of the drug and the approval process under way at Health Canada.

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[Translation]

**GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS**

**Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice.

Since the Liberal government was elected in October 1993, the Minister of Justice has awarded 186 contracts for professional and special services, for a total value of \$7 million. This money is used to fund criminological and legal research.

Could the minister tell us why individuals and companies from Quebec have obtained only 5 per cent of the value of these contracts awarded by his department, 15 times less than the percentage obtained by persons and companies in Ontario?

[English]

**Hon. Allan Rock (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to take the hon. member's question under advisement and provide a detailed response to her as soon as possible.

An immediate response to the question is that much of the business of the Department of Justice has to do with retaining