

*Oral Questions*SALE OF CANDU REACTOR TO SOUTH KOREA—REQUEST FOR
DETAILS OF LOAN

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): I should like to address my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that a \$300 million loan is being provided to South Korea by the Export Development Corporation, will the minister tell the House, either orally or by tabling appropriate documents, what are the terms of this loan with regard to the interest on the loan and the payout period?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I think the press release indicated the terms of repayment and the part that Canadian private banking partners in the loan are playing as well as the part played by the U.K. banking group. In this sense, it is the first type of banking consortium arrangement worked out by the Export Development Corporation, a very important one, I think.

As to the question of the interest rate, that information will not be made public. That kind of information is always confidential.

Mr. Andre: In view of the subsidized interest rate—we do not know whether or not it is subsidized but there is reason to suspect that in fact it will be a subsidized interest rate that is not available to Canadian businessmen or indeed Canadian house buyers—and in view of the fact that a subsidy is tantamount to a reduction in price and to giving a lower than stated price on this reactor, will the minister at least tell the House what the real price of the reactor is?

Mr. Gillespie: I want to reassure the hon. member that these loans are not subsidized. The Export Development Corporation has made money each year. Its rate of interest is negotiated at comparable rates to those that are internationally prevailing and in situations where Canadian sellers have to compete.

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[Translation]

CRIMINAL CODE

PROPOSAL TO REDEFINE WORD "HEALTH" IN ABORTION
PROVISION

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question the Minister of Justice.

Since the amendments to the Criminal Code have been applied with regard to the interpretation of what constitutes danger to the mother's health, the number of abortions in Canada has grown steadily, for various reasons, and the will of the legislator has not been respected: does he intend to reintroduce this act to Parliament and redefine the word "health" and thus encourage life in Canada instead of "slaughter"?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the question of appropriate action is the very subject which will be examined. Of course, the law is being applied, perhaps with some differences from province to

[Mr. Gillespie.]

province, and the actual application of the criminal law is ordinarily the responsibility of the provincial attorney general. It is his responsibility to see that the law is made effective.

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[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE FAMILY FORMATION

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Has his department made any studies on the lowering birth rate in Canada and considered any measures, fiscal or other, to at least encourage women who wish to bear children and thus accomplish a great goal?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, for numerous years the government has endorsed a policy favouring family formation. If one considers the record of the Liberal government over the past 20 years, I think the country has nothing to be ashamed of, much to the contrary.

To answer the hon. member's question in a more specific way, I shall remind him that it is the present government which in the past two years has tripled the amount of family allowances, and the same government which last year issued new instructions concerning cost-sharing by the federal government in day-care nurseries, which now makes it possible for us to share a greater part of nursery costs with the provinces than for any other social services. These are simply measures. But in the Unemployment Insurance Act, you also have measures that were taken to favour maternity leave thus enabling pregnant mothers to receive unemployment insurance benefits. Finally, today, in this House, we are going to debate an omnibus bill on the status of women that will make maternity leave even more readily available to Canadian women.

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CRIMINAL CODE

AMENDMENT OF ABORTION PROVISION TO SHOW RESPECT
FOR LIFE

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): I should like to put a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Considering the answer which has just been given by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, I would like to put again to the Minister of Justice whether he shares the view of his colleague instead of shifting to the provinces the responsibility for the administration of the Criminal Code as in 1968, so that the minister will assume his responsibility and introduce legislation in Parliament advocating respect for and protection of life rather than abortion.

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I should like to emphasize that many observers can see that