

Routine Proceedings

• (1500)

ALLAN MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

I have before me a letter from one Richard Clements of Vancouver who 30 years ago was the subject of brainwashing experiments at the Allan Memorial Institute in Montreal. They were sponsored by the CIA and the Canadian government.

Mr. Clements wants to know and I want to ask on his behalf: Will the government settle these cases so that a person like Mr. Clements can finally have justice after 30 years?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): What I can tell the member, Madam Speaker, is that that case, as with many other cases, is being considered by the Department of Justice. Unfortunately the minister is not here today, but we are informed that the Minister of Justice should be able to give that information soon.

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HEALTH

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Madam Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It is a follow-up to the question asked by my colleague from Nepean.

Would the minister indicate why he refuses to table in this House all the reports done in Canada and all the reports which may be in the possession of the Department of National Health and Welfare with regard to the breast implant? Would the minister explain to the House why he refuses to table all of this information?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, I first would like to know exactly what document or information the members are talking about. I am ready—

Ms. Copps: What documents?

Mr. Bouchard (Roberval): The member for Hamilton East is always impatient. If she would listen for once I would give the answer to her colleague.

I just want to say that I will look at what information he is talking about that would not be available to the opposition and if it is releasable. He knows very well, in terms of health and that kind of reality, that we cannot always give information which would deal with something that is particularly very delicate.

Once again, if there is any possibility that I can make that available, I will. I have nothing to hide. The question is to deal with health and information the best we can.

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Madam Speaker, if the minister has nothing to hide, which he has suggested inside the House and outside the House, would he not avail himself of the opportunity to present all the documentation in the possession of his department, Canadian, American, as well as that of other countries, all reports and studies? Will he table all of that information in the House of Commons so that Canadians, and in particular women, will have all of the knowledge and all of the information?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, it is so big that nobody will suffer any illusion about what the member is asking. If he wants all that information and he believes it is being hidden, why does he not ask the committee to work exactly as it should within the operation of the House of Commons?

Why does he want to play politics with something that is not? We do the best we can in terms of the health of people, but I will not give information if that information is secret, if it does not have to be made available.

Once again I am amazed because normally the member for Hamilton East has that kind of approach. I did not believe it could be that contagious within that party.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to several petitions.