

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): That investigation has not been completed, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Malone: A supplementary question. May I ask the minister at what stage the evaluation is, and when we might expect it will be completed so that physicians across Canada may know whether they can use megavitamin therapy?

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, I cannot give a firm date to the hon. member but I can tell him that the health protection branch of my department has not yet received sufficient evidence from properly constituted and controlled clinical investigations which would substantiate any conclusions for the efficacy of high doses of vitamins in the treatment of psychiatric conditions or the common cold.

* * *

HUMAN RIGHTS

REASON FOR DELAY IN PROCEEDING WITH SECOND READING OF BILL—POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF PROVISION COVERING HATE MESSAGES BY TELEPHONE

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Now that Bill C-72 has been mentioned by the Minister of Finance in dealing with the federal human rights legislation and seeing that the minister has now met with his provincial counterparts regarding this very important matter, can he give us any reasons why he cannot proceed with the early introduction of this bill for second reading after the Christmas recess?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, we had a very useful meeting, and as a result of that discussion, I shall be making some recommendations to my colleagues in cabinet with regard to the bill. I would hope it could be proceeded with in the session following Christmas.

Mr. Alexander: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Another matter of some sensitivity involves Bell Canada and hate messages. Has the minister directed his attention to this particular matter and was it discussed with his provincial counterpart? Is he going to move in this particular area to outlaw these messages and will there be room for censorship by Bell Canada? Is this the type of thing he is recommending to his colleagues to be brought within the human rights legislation or will there be separate legislation?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, it was raised by the delegation from Ontario and I have also had correspondence and discussion on the subject with my counterpart, Mr. McMurtry. I am not proposing that we should introduce in that bill, or any other, some form of censorship, but I am conscious of the problem and issue raised by the government of Ontario and have undertaken to examine both their specific proposal and other proposals, to see if the problem can be dealt with either under the Human Rights Act or some other appropriate piece of legislation. That is one matter on which I am reflecting following our meet-

Oral Questions

ings and on which I hope to make recommendations to my colleagues before the bill comes back to the House.

* * *

● (1430)

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. As, later this week, important government announcements will be made covering spending cuts in the order of \$1.5 billion; as, on October 9, the Prime Minister, answering a question put by the hon. member for Calgary North, repeated that it is the intention of the government to keep its election promises during the course of this parliament, will the Prime Minister say, in view of his complete about face on wage and price controls, if he will now make a similar about face with respect to the \$3 billion worth of election promises he made in his desperate bid for re-election just one year ago?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi.

* * *

AIR CANADA

REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF BAGGAGE HANDLING METHODS

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question directed to the Minister of Transport is put on behalf of the thousands of beleaguered passengers who now travel on that once great airline, Air Canada.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Grafftey: In so far as Air Canada has managed to lose my bags on six occasions—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Speaker, again, I ask this question on behalf of thousands of beleaguered passengers. Since my own bags have been lost on six occasions—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi would contribute to order if he would put his question.

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Speaker, would the minister investigate the baggage handling procedures of Air Canada? I largely suspect that the problem takes place in the now famous terminals in Toronto. In my case this has happened six times since I embarked on a certain campaign.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!