

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Fairweather:** With a little more objectivity than your ministers showed yesterday, I will do it.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** The hon. gentleman has obviously made up his mind already. Perhaps he is not so objective.

**Mr. Lalonde:** Do you watch it?

**Mr. Fairweather:** Every day.

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**INCOME TAX****POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE IN TREATMENT OF REVENUE EARNED BY INDIAN BANDS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. Several days ago the minister indicated she would be meeting with Indian groups to discuss the question of a proposed change in tax law which would no longer permit Indian bands to treat income the same way that income would be treated in the hands of Canadian municipalities. Could the minister give the House some indication of whether a change in policy is coming or how the discussions proceeded?

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, the discussions proceeded very well. We have set up a key group of officials of my department who are working in conjunction with officials of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and with representatives of the Indians on better and more fair application of the Income Tax Act on matters of great concern for the Indians. Second, concerning the specific point raised about the eventual change in the interpretation bulletin IT-62 which is the one to which the hon. member refers, I can assure him that the Indian band councils on Indian reserves are considered as Canadian municipalities. Should any change be envisaged in the future, consultations will take place.

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● (1200)

**HEALTH****ARSENIC POLLUTION—MINISTER'S VIEW OF LEVEL AT YELLOWKNIFE IN RELATION TO HEALTH**

**Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Does the minister, together with his officials, have reason to believe that arsenic levels in Yellowknife constitute a significant danger to human health and the environment? Mr. Speaker, I do not think the minister was listening to me.

**Mr. Lalonde:** I was waiting for the hon. member to sit down.

**Mr. Brisco:** Did the minister hear me?

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

**Mr. Lalonde:** Sure.

**Mr. Brisco:** May we please have an answer?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, several studies have been made on the reports published about that subject. Of course, the matter is very controversial. That is why I have asked the Canadian Public Health Association to set up a work committee made up of independent experts. That committee has been asked to make a complete review of all studies made to date and to undertake any additional study that may be deemed necessary to establish, once and for all, whether mining operations in Yellowknife do present health hazards and, if so, to find out how to improve the situation and eliminate what dangers exist.

[English]

**ARSENIC POLLUTION—REASON FOR ALLEGED FAILURE TO APPOINT ADVISORY BOARD TO STUDY PROBLEM**

**Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the minister yesterday, when responding to the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby, denied that he had any responsibility in this matter, and since the Environmental Contaminants Act authorizes the minister to set up an advisory board which can review these problems, I ask, why did the minister not appoint an advisory board whose mandate would be to look into significant environmental matters?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member failed to understand anything in the exchange of views I had yesterday with the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby. I did not deny that my department has some responsibility in that field. The question of the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby dealt with a very specific matter, namely the setting up of standards under the Task Force Clean Air Act, which act falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Environment and not mine. That is the question that was dealt with yesterday.

As for the point the hon. member brought up, I did indicate that a working committee was set up by the Canadian Public Health Association, at my request, and with funds supplied by my department. With regard to the other question concerning the environment, I indicated yesterday that a working committee has been set up by the Department of the Environment to determine what new standards might be required. I am sure that the Minister of the Environment will be pleased to answer that question when he comes back to the House.

[English]

**ARSENIC POLLUTION—SUGGESTION ADVISORY GROUP STUDY PREVIOUS REPORTS**

**Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Since the report which the minister tabled in the House in the fall of 1975 was based on standards accepting as