

*Oral Questions*

22-page scavenger hunt to determine Canadians' abilities and federal and provincial tax payable. I want to ask the minister what he proposes to do to change the tax guide so that it is more simple for Canadians to fill out as they have done in the past and are unable, it seems, to do in the present. Is the 1989 tax guide going to be far easier to handle than the past one?

**Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, with friends like that, who needs enemies?

It is true that over the last 20 years the tax guide and the system have become quite complex. This sounds like a set-up question and I was not aware my honourable friend was putting it. Since he did put it, I can assure the member that from last year to next year, we will be reducing the number of pages in the tax guide by some 15 per cent.

We have looked at every conventional method of simplifying the system, and I am happy to announce again that we are moving into the electronic age. Next year, for the first time in the history of this country, we are going to electronic filing which will lead us toward a paperless society within the next decade.

I can assure my hon. friend, all members of the House of Commons and Canadians as a whole that every effort is being made in consultation with interested groups and individuals to make the system even less complex, particularly compared to the one we inherited five years ago from the Liberals.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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**HEALTH CARE**

**Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. It is about the direction his government is taking on the abortion issue.

Every rational thinking person in this country knows that the key to reducing the number of abortions in this country is to reduce the number of unplanned pregnancies. Why does this government not take positive action?

First, the Family Planning Division at National Health and Welfare was disbanded, leaving only one full-time

person in all of National Health and Welfare to work on family planning issues. Why did this government cut funding to Planned Parenthood by \$61,000 in its first mandate? If it is really so concerned with the number of abortions, why does it not approach the issue by working toward preventing unplanned pregnancies?

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that the hon. member's information is out of date. We have increased funding for Planned Parenthood. Indeed, the goal of this government is to provide positive alternatives to abortion. We believe that abortion should be a last resort and not a substitute for birth control. As a consequence, we will take any measure we can appropriately take to reduce the causes of abortion in Canada.

**Ms. Black:** Mr. Speaker, over all in the mandate of this government, the funding to planned parenthood has been reduced significantly, even though there has been a very slight increase this year.

Family planning, like family violence, is not solely a provincial responsibility. National Health and Welfare has a national clearing house on family violence. Why does it not have a national clearing house on family planning? Why is the federal government not playing the role that it could play in family planning education and have adequate funding for educational programs so that all people in Canada could work together to reduce in a positive way the unwanted pregnancies in this country?

**Mr. Beatty:** Mr. Speaker, our approach is to do precisely that, to give Canadians a positive alternative to abortion and to ensure that information about contraception is widely available in Canada. The hon. member is wrong. We substantially increased funding for Planned Parenthood to disseminate this information. That is important. It should not be simply dismissed by the hon. member.

I think the onus is on all of us in the House of Commons, if we believe that we should be finding alternatives to abortion, to look for ways to disseminate information, to look for ways to give support to mothers, to look for ways to ensure that women are not driven into a situation where they believe that abortion is the only recourse that is open to them.