

*Oral Questions*

chiatric evaluations. One doctor has said, and I quote: "What this law is doing is—"

**Mr. Speaker:** I am having some difficulty with the question. I would like the Leader of the New Democratic Party to put her question.

**Ms. McLaughlin:** Mr. Speaker, doctors from one end of this country to the other have said that this law will cause—

**Mr. Speaker:** I would ask the hon. member to put the question.

**Ms. McLaughlin:** In light of the potential denial of basic medical services and dignity, will the Minister of Justice take the last opportunity to prevent this unjust violation of women's rights and see that the bill is defeated today?

**Mr. Speaker:** The minister, of course, can answer. I must say though that the question is speculative at the very least.

**Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, even a question that is out of order requires a response, I think.

A great many things have been said about the potential effect of Bill C-43, which may or may not be accepted by the House today. I will simply repeat what I said in the legislative committee, that no doctor who is practising medicine according to the canon of ethics of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Canada need fear anything from Bill C-43.

I also made it very clear that should the bill be accepted by Parliament, in the period between its acceptance by Parliament and its coming into force—which as the hon. member will be aware, will be some time, depending on the speed with which the Senate deals with the bill, were it to be passed because that is anticipatory—that I believe it is the obligation of the government to ensure that all people who are affected by the bill are clear as to its effect.

In my profession of law, we regularly have courses and opportunities whereby lawyers become aware of new obligations that may apply to them, et cetera. I believe that were this bill to become law, the government would have a similar obligation to make sure that doctors in Canada are aware of the genuine implications of the bill

and not implications that have been communicated to them by scaremongers who wish to detract them from the ethical practice of—

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh!

[*Translation*]

**Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Yesterday in Montreal, Dr. Jean Guimond, a spokesperson for the monitoring committee, talked about the impact Bill C-43 would have on women and on doctors. He said, "They are forced to lie, to distort reality, to say what is not true—"

My question for the minister is: What does she have to say to Quebec women who denounce this bill as sinisterly hypocritical?

**Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I repeat what I said in English: No doctor in Canada need fear Bill C-43. What is described in the bill as legal conforms to the Canadian Medical Association's code of ethics. If the bill is passed by the House, I would assure all physicians in Canada that they have nothing to fear.

[*English*]

**Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, this government has said that it cares about Canadian families. Yet we have over one and one-half million children in this country living in poverty. We have half a million children relying on food banks. The government says it cares about Canadian families, but only spends .0004 per cent on family planning and contraceptive research.

Why does the government not bring in a humane family policy which will feed our children, clothe our children, provide shelter for our children, instead of sending women and doctors to jail?

• (1430)

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will be aware of the fact that the government has announced its intention to increase research and family planning and the dissemination of information with regard to family planning.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh!