

Oral Questions

of physicians and specialists, the real statistics for 1977 estimate that 600, not 1,500, departed. The latter figure is often referred to and has already been used once by the hon. gentleman. I can assure him that a sufficient number of young graduates will replace those physicians emigrating abroad—who are not all Canadians, by the way.

As to the problem of geriatrics which the hon. member touched upon in the last part of his question, we all know that there are not enough specialists in that particular field and that this subject will be touched upon at a special conference in the fall.

Mr. Rynard: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the bloc system runs for a period of five years, how can the minister be assured, when that program can be interrupted at any time within five years, that the quality of care and availability of doctors will be present in each and every province?

Miss Bégin: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure I understood the question properly, but there is no problem since there will not be any disruption in any of the elements which are the components of the health delivery system in Canada. There will be no disruption in the training of new physicians and specialists and there will be no disruption in the development of the health care of the country, except for improvements, and I do not call that disruption. In most of the provinces these improvements are moving toward more ambulatory care. The hon. gentleman has been a proponent of this, and there are no cuts in budgets by any of the provincial governments, to my knowledge. The system is functioning very well and improving within existing budgets.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

APPLICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACT IN LABOUR DISPUTES

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice with respect to the wage dispute between the 25 women members of the Ottawa Steel Plate Examiners Union and the British American Bank Note Company. On Thursday, May 25, I asked the minister, as reported at page 5718 of *Hansard*:

In view of the fact that section 19 of the Canadian Human Rights Act empowers the government to include a directive in federal contracts with respect to the anti-discrimination sections of the act, may I ask the minister if the government will test the validity of section 19 of the act by giving a directive to the British American Bank Note Company to pay attention to those anti-discrimination provisions?

Two days ago the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby asked whether there was yet an answer to the question, and the minister said, "No, not yet." I hope he has it today.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, it is provided in section 19 that the governor in council will make regulations under that act before it can be applied. When the Human Rights Commission was first established, it was envisaged that they would examine the use of section 19 and

[Miss Bégin.]

propose recommendations to me or the governor in council as to the type of regulations that should be passed. The Human Rights Commission, as I understand it, is doing that with regard to the general situation. It is aware of the particular case the hon. member raises, and has it under advisement.

However, there are some difficulties in using this as a test case. First, it would require retrospective application of the legislation, which does not commend itself to me, initially, as a good test case. Second, the arbitrator, as I read the arbitration award, clearly found that there was no discrimination in this particular contract. In any event, before section 19 can be applied, we need recommendations or reports from the Human Rights Commission which has the matter under advisement.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker does the government not have some sensitivity over the fact that it is doing business with a company that is in violation of its own Human Rights Act?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, as I read the arbitrator's award, that is not the case.

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AIRPORTS

WEST GERMAN CRITICISM OF TORONTO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. D. M. Collenette (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. It concerns a report in Wednesday's *Globe and Mail* quoting a London *Sunday Times* article that the West German government has rated Toronto international airport one of the least secure airports in the world.

I would ask the minister if this report is true, and if not, could he, through his colleague the Secretary of State for External Affairs, ask for an apology from the West German government, since accusations of this sort most certainly undermine the confidence of millions of Canadians and tourists who travel through the Toronto airport?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that the allegation of lack of safety at Toronto airport is completely untrue. It appears that at one time, for a very brief period, the Toronto airport did appear on a list which was prepared by the German authorities. But almost immediately, when it came to the attention of Lufthansa, they informed the German authorities that in their view—and Lufthansa is knowledgeable about the matter, as they use the Toronto airport facilities—the Toronto international airport security standards were absolutely adequate and the Toronto airport was immediately removed from the list.

I should say, as well, in terms of the German government, that I appreciated an immediate call from the German ambassador here to explain the situation. He has also contacted the Department of External Affairs and I consider the matter closed.