

I should like to know whether it is the position of the Conservative party that the federal government should not operate lotteries under any circumstances. That is not our position, neither does the constitution nor any other law indicate that it should be.

**Mr. Clark:** Our position is that the Government of Canada should honour its undertakings.

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

**Mr. Clark:** The Prime Minister is being coached by his colleague. He will find that reading the record is a more reliable means of understanding the undertaking which was given. I suggest he read the record. Will he confirm that it is the intention of the Government of Canada to move into a lottery program whereby lottery tickets will be dispensed in slot-machine fashion—using, incidentally, machines imported from the United States—on a 24-hour basis in shopping centres across the country, to bring revenues to governments in competition with existing provincial programs which provide funds for hundreds of thousands of people involved in voluntary organizations across the country?

Will the right hon. gentleman confirm that this slot-machine approach is the one the government is contemplating in competition with voluntary agencies across the country?

**Mr. Trudeau:** The approach is certainly not one of desiring competition. I note that both the minister responsible for lotteries and his predecessor have offered to the provinces some form of agreement whereby there would be one lottery for all Canadians involving federal and provincial governments and the proceeds would be shared. I believe sharing was offered on a 50-50 basis. As to the details, whether it is to be operated by using slot-machines or not, I will take notice of the question and ask the minister, who is perfectly able to explain our policies, to answer the question.

On the matter of principle, I find it strange that the Leader of the Opposition, when considering any scheme which would bring revenue to governments, always seems to be on the side of the provinces. He obviously does not want to be the leader of a national government; he wants to stick up for the provinces on every issue. We take the position that this field is open to both levels of government. Actually, it was made open by a law of parliament presented by this government. Until we presented it, the provinces could not engage in lotteries. But we presented the law and it was passed. We have tried to find a common scheme upon which everyone would agree. The provinces, naturally, want the whole field for themselves and, naturally, the Leader of the Opposition thinks that is what the position should be.

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

### *Oral Questions*

**Mr. Clark:** One of the changes I intend to introduce is to be the head of a truthful government which keeps its word.

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

**Mr. Clark:** Also, the head of a government of a nation that stays together, rather than being driven apart by intransigence and stubbornness at the centre. Not surprisingly, the Prime Minister has not read the telex from the provinces, though it should have been received in his office some days ago. I would ask him to read it and to pay particular attention to the request over the signature of the chairman of the conference, Mr. Shillington, of Saskatchewan, that the Prime Minister himself become involved in this matter and assure the provinces that the federal government will not proceed until an attempt has been made by the right hon. gentleman himself to reach consensus with the premiers. Will the Prime Minister give us that undertaking?

**Mr. Trudeau:** I do not think I have to give such an undertaking.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** It has been my constant practice to receive telegrams from the premiers and to respond to them in order to reach the best possible agreement between both levels of government. However, since this is a federal system, it is obvious there will be some points of disagreement, and the difference between this party and the party opposite is that we do not intend to try to keep the country together by giving all the powers of the federal government to the provinces.

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

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## HEALTH AND WELFARE

### RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

**Mr. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the hon. lady made any response to recommendations from the recent federal-provincial conference on child abuse, or the United Nations call for action on this question by 1979, the Year of the Child? In particular, has she considered a suggestion to host an international symposium in Canada in 1979 to develop a greater awareness of this problem and better approaches to resolving it?

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** I have read the recommendations released from the federal-provincial conference on child abuse and the department has studied them. I have expressed my own reaction in a letter to Keith Norton, the Ontario minister who co-hosted the conference with the federal government. As for the suggestion