

[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY**MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT TOTAL BENEFIT OF OLD AGE PENSION INCREASES GOES TO RECIPIENTS**

Mr. Gilles Caouette (Charlevoix): I would like to put a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

A recent press release reported an increase in old age pensions. This time has the minister taken any steps to see that total benefit be paid directly to old people so as to avoid any possibility of provincial governments, Quebec especially, stealing the increase by reducing social welfare or still by raising rent in homes?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, recently I had the opportunity of raising that issue with my colleagues, my Quebec counterpart especially, and I hope that all interested parties will find the situation satisfactory in April.

Mr. Caouette (Charlevoix): I should like to put a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

As this is another "as of April" provision, does the minister plan to adopt a formula guaranteeing the elderly an increase without having to spend time fighting about it with the provinces?

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, it is not a question of "fighting" with the provinces. They manage housing for the elderly and are responsible for setting the rent. Representations must be made directly to the provinces, and pressures exerted upon them; I cannot dictate to them.

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[English]

FINANCE**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON EFFORTS TO REFORM INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM AND VALUE OF CANADIAN DOLLAR**

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact the minister failed in his speech the other day to go into the question of international monetary relations, the value of gold, the reform of the international monetary system and, may I say, the change of policy with regard to the value of the Canadian dollar, would the minister now consider making a statement in the House and so bringing the House into his confidence on what is happening with the Canadian dollar, thus avoiding some of the questions that have been put this morning?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the hon. member. I found that in the 30 minutes I wanted to do justice to a few of the domestic issues.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): A few political ones.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Perhaps on another occasion we could have a discussion about the international situation, something I have been thinking about.

*Oral Questions***HEALTH****ACHIEVEMENT OF PATIENT-DOCTOR RATIO OF SIX HUNDRED TO ONE—ADMISSION OF FOREIGN DOCTORS TO CANADA**

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact he has expressed the view that the ratio of patients to doctors should be 600 to one, and in view of the fact the throne speech contained no reference on that score, does he intend to move by legislative action or by regulation in order to achieve this desire of his, which I hope will not be achieved because I believe the ratio is a bit high?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I did not express the hope that the ratio be one to 600. I merely reported that among experts in the matter, in various countries, the ratio of one to 600 is considered reasonable.

Canada's objective has not been set definitely. The matter will be discussed with the provinces since they are the ones that will have final say in the matter when deciding on the number of doctors each province wants under its jurisdiction in relation to its population.

[English]

Mr. Korchinski: In view of the fact medical care insurance is available to all Canadians, is he considering consulting the Minister of Manpower and Immigration regarding the withholding of applications to come to Canada that have been made by foreign doctors in order that the ratio that he himself has established may be maintained?

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: I am afraid the hon. member did not understand my first answer. This ratio is not one that I established personally or that is established for Canada, it is merely a ratio generally recognized.

As for consultation with my colleague, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, I say once again that it is quite clear that no legislation can be introduced in this respect unless the provinces take a decision in the allocation of a certain number of doctors under their jurisdiction.

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● (1150)

[English]

NATIONAL PAROLE BOARD**INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF AD HOC MEMBERS—INCLUSION OF INDIANS**

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Solicitor General. Inasmuch as the National Parole Board has now been revitalized and increased in stature, can the minister tell the House when he will be able to make the announcement about the appointment of the ten ad hoc members which was authorized by parliament at the last session, and will there be