

Oral Questions

to be judged against results. For 40 years there were allegations about war criminals residing in Canada, and very little, if anything, had been done. This Government was the first to appoint a royal commission to get at this issue right here in Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

MEDICAL CARE**ONTARIO HOSPITAL INSURANCE PLAN—DOCTOR' THREAT TO BILL PATIENTS DIRECTLY**

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It concerns the directive to all hospitals and doctors not to accept OHIP health cards but rather to bill the patients directly. Would the Minister use his influence and give the leadership that we expect of him, and tell all Canadian doctors that to use the health care system of Canada as a political arm or a political tool is both unethical and immoral?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I believe I have already indicated that I do not see the use of an OHIP card or any other card from a resident of another province as being an action whereby a patient, a person who needs medical assistance, should be put at risk. That is the public health care system that we have which has been endorsed by all Parties in this House and endorsed by the provinces of Canada. I have said very clearly—and that is why I had it checked to make sure—that the portability requirements of the Canada Health Act were being observed. They are being observed, from all the knowledge that I have and that I have received.

There is obviously a position that I take as Minister of Health. I expect Canadians to receive the medical care to which they are entitled whether they are inside their province or outside their province.

[*Translation*]

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT PERSUADE MR. GROSSMAN TO SUPPORT BILL 94

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, now that the issue extends beyond the Ontario border and involves Canada's national interest, does the Minister not feel, in view of his duties and responsibilities, that he should phone the President of the Canadian Medical Association to ask him to withdraw this directive, and perhaps also Mr. Grossman, the Tory Leader of Ontario, to ask him to get to it and support Bill 94?

• (1140)

[*English*]

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I do not think the last statement about my phoning the Leader of the Opposition in Queen's Park is any more valid than whether the Member has phoned the Premier of Ontario and asked him to be reasonable and try to come to some agreement between the doctors and the Ontario Government. That kind of statement is just not helpful. The point that must be made is, as I said to the Member earlier, that I expect the doctors of Canada—

Mr. Ouellet: The Minister of Health is for extra-billing.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): The Member for Papineau is as ridiculous today as is his reputation in this House and across the country.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Ouellet: You're for extra-billing. That's what you are saying.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Ouellet: Sit down.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please! The Hon. Minister knows that such a personal comment is out of order.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): If I am out of order, I will gladly withdraw and leave the Member to search his own conscience.

Some Hon. Members: Come on.

Mr. Penner: That's no good. It must be unequivocal.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order! The Chair has not found that the Member said anything unparliamentary. Such comments, as the Hon. Member knows, are out of order.

* * *

AGRICULTURE**FAMILY FARMS—GOVERNMENT POLICY**

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Right Hon. Prime Minister. The Prime Minister recently appointed a new Deputy Minister of Agriculture. Was Mr. Noreau speaking for the Prime Minister and his Government when he recently indicated that the Government's priority is no longer the protection of the family farm, but rather to help farmers get out of production?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to respond to that question and set the record straight. The statements of the new Deputy Minister of Agriculture were taken out of context. The Deputy