

In the report of Senator McGovern in the United States, mention is made of the fact that the foods most advertised in the United States are those which contain the most fat, sugar, and salt, in other words those that are the most harmful to one's health. According to that report, people in the low income group and the aged are the most affected by that publicity. Is the minister going to make another study on the impact in Canada of that publicity on Canadian eating habits?

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, first of all I should like to congratulate the hon. member on the quality of his French. I wish to add that I shall take his suggestion into consideration. I shall discuss it with my officials and see whether such a study should not be undertaken, or whether we should merely transpose the study made in the United States to the situation in Canada.

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● (1440)

[English]

SOCIAL SERVICES

EFFECT OF NEW ADULT CARE PROGRAM IN SOME PROVINCES— AGREEMENT OF PROVINCES TO NEW PROPOSALS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare regarding his new policy affecting adult care. His new policy means that he will now give the respective provinces some \$21 per person in order to provide adult care services, thereby doing away with the cost-sharing program. I would like to know if the minister is re-assessing this proposed new financial arrangement with the provinces. This new arrangement will penalize provinces like P.E.I., Saskatchewan and Manitoba which have pioneered programs offering the best adult care services in the country. This policy would inhibit the improvement of services and reduce the quality of existing services. Is there no flexibility in the minister's mind at this time?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise the hon. member that there is so much flexibility that his information is out of date. As a matter of fact, the proposal will come before the House tomorrow for second reading. Legislation has been introduced in the House to the effect that there will be a \$20 per capita grant rather than \$21, and the federal government will continue to share the cost under the Canada Assistance Plan for a whole series of services provided to persons in need. It is a proposal which is different from the one the hon. member referred to, and it will be of appreciable benefit to the low income provinces.

Mr. Alexander: I appreciate the minister giving me that information, but let me ask him this: do Manitoba and Saskatchewan approve of the policy as it now stands? In light of the fact that the deadline for the new proposals passed one or

two days ago, can the minister assure me now that all the provinces are in favour of the proposal he just enunciated?

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: No. Mr. Speaker, I can tell the hon. member that as far as I know the province of Saskatchewan has neither accepted nor approved the proposal I mentioned. I have yet to receive the reply of the province of Manitoba. However, I can say to the hon. member that five provinces representing over 75 per cent of the population have already agreed to the proposal.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REASON ANNOUNCEMENT OF TERMINATION OF DUTIES OF AMBASSADOR WARREN MADE AT THIS TIME—SUGGESTED INVESTIGATION OF LEAK

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to get back to the lead question of my leader and ask a question by way of a supplementary of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I listened very carefully to his replies to question regarding the termination of the duties of Ambassador Warren. Given the fact that the announcement of the termination of Ambassador Warren's tenure at this time could only reflect poorly on the ambassador and could in fact cause embarrassment on the eve of the Prime Minister's visit to Washington, could the minister explain why this announcement would be released or leaked on the eve of the Prime Minister's visit to Washington?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, on the matter of leaks, that is something over which I obviously have no control.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Things are worse than we thought.

Mr. Jamieson: I am, of course, speaking in a totally non-biological sense.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jamieson: However, I have explained to the House that indeed this is a rather good example of the dilemma which faces a minister or any other member who is anxious to be forthcoming with the media. Initially, the media got the story and asked me to confirm it. I did what I felt was the appropriate thing, which was to say "Yes, it is true", and then to go on to explain the situation, which I have done in the House today. I want to emphasize that it was not a formal announcement, and clearly it would not have been the most auspicious time, to say the least, to make such an announcement. It was simply a confirmation on my part of a report which had been obtained by the media.