

## Oral Questions

## HEALTH

NEED FOR INCREASE IN NUMBER OF MEDICAL STUDENTS—  
GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that a high proportion of foreign students are presently enrolled in Canadian medical schools and that at the time Medicare was introduced by the government a commitment was given that federal funding would be used to expand medical school facilities, would the minister now give us an explanation regarding what policies are presently underway to increase the number of seats in Canadian medical schools for medical students?

● (1500)

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, the answer could be long but I will try to make it as short as possible. Over \$500 million has been spent on improving medical education facilities in this country after the introduction of Medicare, and at the present time the rate of production in our medical faculties in Canada is substantially higher than it was five or 10 years ago. As far as the presence of foreign students in our medical faculties is concerned, we must bear in mind that we have a great number of Canadian students and graduates of medicine studying abroad in other countries, so we should be very careful before we jump to any conclusion as to what should be done with regard to foreign students in Canada.

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[Translation]

## ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REQUEST FOR AMENDING LEGISLATION CONCERNING  
JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

**Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Justice.

Since the legislation presented last year on juvenile delinquents has been generally rejected, would the minister tell the House whether he intends to introduce a new bill to amend the Juvenile Delinquents Act?

[English]

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, the work in connection with the bill is going on under the supervision of the Solicitor General.

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## LABOUR CONDITIONS

REASON FOR ALLOWING CONTINUANCE OF HIRING HALL  
SYSTEM BY SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION IN VIEW OF  
LEGISLATION PROHIBITING PRACTICE

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour but I do not see him in his seat, so perhaps I can—

**An hon. Member:** Here he is.

[Mr. Buchanan.]

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

**Mr. MacKay:** Mr. Speaker, the Norris inquiry dealt at length with the dangers and problems associated with hiring hall practices and so on. Charges have been raised time and time again with regard to "do not ship" lists and other problems directly related to the hiring hall and the Seafarers' International Union. I would ask whether the minister can advise why the hiring hall system of engaging seamen is continually used by the Seafarers' International Union and the Canadian Lake Carriers Association when there is a specific legislative provision outlawing the hiring system set forth in Section 154(1) of the shipping act? It is very short so I should like to read it. I am sure the minister is aware of it. It states—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am sure the minister is aware of the law.

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, the question of the hiring hall as it is being practised has not been the subject of a complaint by the major parties involved, for instance on the Great Lakes. I will say right now in the House in answer to the hon. member that if anybody wishes to launch a complaint against the present practice, or back up any allegations with any facts at all we will look into the matter. In the meantime, I have been advised that this is not the case at the present time.

**Mr. MacKay:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the minister's answer I would like to put another very brief question to him. Is he in fact satisfied that any complaints which have arisen relative to this matter are being adequately looked after by the so-called "watchdog committee" that has been set up through the Canadian Labour Congress? I should like also to go back briefly and ask the minister again, since he is familiar with this specific statutory prohibition against the hiring hall system, why it is that this particular statute of Canada is not being enforced?

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, I do not accept for a moment the hon. member's legal interpretation in respect of that particular section. I think if anything is required in terms of an amendment to the code, it would be in relation to complaints in respect of people being abused as a result of the system so they can be dealt with quickly. I do not agree with the present legal interpretation, and I would reiterate to the hon. member that if any complaints should come forward they should immediately be referred to the Canada Labour Relations Board for investigation.

**Mr. MacKay:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question or a point of order.

**Mr. Forrestall:** Or a question of privilege, one or the other.

**Mr. Speaker:** No matter how you describe it, there seems to be a contest between the two seat mates to see who will ask the next question. If they can agree I will be glad to have one of them ask the next supplementary question.

**Mr. MacKay:** Go ahead.