

*Oral Questions*

the Government's initiative. Quite frankly, when the Government proposes up to two and a half months to consider this Bill, that certainly does not sound like a Government that is stifling debate.

**Mr. Broadbent:** The Minister knows full well that it is the same Government that wanted virtually no debate after the hearings. That is the reality and the Minister knows it.

## POSITION OF CANADIAN DRUG MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I want to return to the Minister responsible for the Bill. He could not have been more explicit when he said to me in the House yesterday, with reference to a clause that was taken out of the Bill: "It was removed from the Bill because the Canadian Drug Manufacturers Association which represents the generic companies asked that it be removed". The letter that he received from that association, with reference to a meeting on October 14, said that quite the opposite request was made, that they wanted it in to ensure Canadian manufacturing took place in Canada. Will he confirm that he was at that meeting and that what they were saying was the case? If so, will he do the right thing and admit that he misled the House yesterday?

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, for the seventh or eighth time, this question was originally asked on November 21. I refer the Hon. Leader of the NDP to page 1399 of *Hansard*. I repeat that on September 9 in Toronto, at a meeting between my staff and Doctor Calenti and Doctor Kubela, the generic companies suggested that the manufacturing provisions would not allow them to get into the fine chemicals manufacturing because the brand names would manufacture the major drugs, which are the only ones generics are interested in copying.

They suggested that they would have an opportunity to get into fine chemicals if we would change, to provide a gap between licences to manufacture and import. We provided that three-year gap. The idea came from the CDMA and turned out to be an idea that we found reasonable because it would bring on generic competition in those major drugs a little earlier. It was their initial suggestion and their idea which we adopted. If the Hon. Member is suggesting that we have adopted all of their suggestions, we have not. They are in the business of copying, and obviously they are opposed to anything that gets in the way of their being able to copy other people's discoveries.

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● (1430)

## CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

## PRE-COMMITTEE BRIEFINGS FOR TRIBUNAL APPOINTEES

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Can he tell

the House under whose authority the Prime Minister's Office organized a secret coaching yesterday of Progressive Conservative Human Rights appointees just hours before the appointees were supposed to come before a committee and testify about their own suitability as candidates for the Human Rights Tribunal?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, there is nothing secret about the briefings. The candidates had this opportunity available to them. They could respond to the invitation and if they chose not to, they did not have to do so. The fact is it was to provide a clearer outline of their duties and obligations and to remind them of the conflict of interest qualifications which are required. It was quite normal to outline these things to the candidates.

I might just remind the Hon. Member that this is a new process which has been adopted by the Government. This Government is not ashamed of the appointments it makes.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Mazankowski:** That is why we are prepared to have the candidates come before a parliamentary committee for consideration.

**Ms. Copps:** Mr. Speaker, the process was so open that even the Clerk of the committee did not even know about the secret meeting taking place over at the Langevin Block.

## GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** First we had the resumés doctored, which was proven yesterday. Now we have appointees being coached. Just how low will the Government stoop—

**Some Hon. Members:** Order.

**Ms. Copps:** —to get its unqualified PC appointees on the Human Rights Tribunal, which deserves better?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, the short answer to the Hon. Member's question is that we have opened up a secret process. The Hon. Member, and the Party of which she is a member, are the experts on secrecy.

## REVIEW OF APPOINTMENTS

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice who is responsible for the Canadian Human Rights Commission. He presumably recognizes that it is the role of the Clerk of the committee to brief appointees with respect to procedures before that committee. Does the Minister not recognize that this blatant political interference by the Prime Minister's Office—after the news of doctored resumés and after restrictions by Tories on the number of appointees who could be