

[Translation]

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to point out that the Government has asked Canada Post to become self-sufficient by 1987-88 while at the same time improving service. Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, the Corporation has submitted a corporate plan. We have analyzed the plan, and it does indeed meet these two objectives. We are satisfied with the decision made by Canada Post.

[English]

LOCK AND KEY COMBINATIONS

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Last week a superbox could be opened without a key. The Government says that it has corrected that. We now learn today that a key will open a whole bunch of superboxes. Superboxes become Pandora's boxes for this Government. Can the Minister confirm that because there was only a limited number of lock and key combinations purchased for superboxes, Canada Post will now have to change all the locks on every superbox in the country? Is it not cheaper to restore door-to-door mail delivery?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I am told that in certain regions it takes a crowbar to open these supermailboxes, so that certainly represents security, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

AMENDING LEGISLATION—PRESS RELEASE LINKING NAMES OF OUTSTANDING PERSONS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Right Hon. Prime Minister who will know that this morning the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs circulated a very partisan press release to all Members of Parliament linking the names of Terry Fox, Steve Fonyo, and Rick Hansen with the Government's Bill changing the Patent Act. Does the Prime Minister of Canada believe that linking these three outstanding Canadians to a Bill that the Government is introducing is an appropriate use of their names?

An Hon. Member: Did you get their permission?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, all of us applaud the work of those three Canadians who, in their various ways, have advanced medical research. What I think is important in the area of health is that Canadians want and expect to have the very best of health care. We have a choice to make as Canadians, and that is we either purchase almost entirely new technology from abroad, or develop some of it in Canada. I am suggesting to the Hon.

Oral Questions

Member that that balance is important. I am absolutely convinced that Canadian research can lead—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

USE OF INDIVIDUALS' NAMES

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is again directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Does the Prime Minister think it is appropriate to use the names of great Canadians like Terry Fox, Steve Fonyo, and Rick Hansen in support of the initiative of this Government which will result in a significant increase in prescription drug prices? Does the Prime Minister believe it is appropriate that these individuals who have pursued fund raising for medical research are now having their names used in support of this government legislation?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the document to which my hon. friend refers. I will be happy to look at it, because there would be no intention of associating anyone with a proposal or a piece of legislation without his or her authorization, so I will examine it very carefully, and I will reply to my hon. friend.

* * *

TRADE

UNITED STATES DUTY ON CANADIAN SOFTWOOD LUMBER

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of International Trade. In her absence, I will direct it to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Over the weekend an External Affairs official in a briefing arranged by the Minister himself was reported to say that the federal Government no longer believes that it can win its lumber case against the Americans. Therefore, it has abandoned its decision to fight through every possible legal channel. Is this defeatist position now the official position of the Government? Have we indeed abandoned the recourse that we have through the American tribunals and the international tribunals to fight against the softwood lumber case?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Hon. Member is misquoting the official he is purporting to report. Perhaps when he rises again he might indicate to us whether, as the official spokesman on trade matters for the Liberal Party, he speaks for the position they adopted on Saturday morning, or the different position they adopted on Saturday afternoon, or the different position they adopted on Sunday morning.

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Speaker, since the Hon. Minister is seeking information, I will advise him that I speak for the position on the resolutions that I proposed and were passed at the convention.