

Anti-Dumping Tribunal

was no proof showing that the use of aerosol sprays can cause a deterioration of the atmosphere's ozone layer and bring about an increase in the incidence of skin cancer. Can the minister say whether his information from the academy came by way of an academy report, or by way of his conversations with academy officials?

An hon. Member: By way of academy award.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, if the translation or the words I used implied that the aerosol sprays have no effect on the ozone layer, that is not what I meant because they do have an effect which is, however, not important enough to jeopardize public health at the present time. It is a report which I got from my department and I am going to check its source.

● (1500)

[English]

Mr. Jarvis: In fairness to that very distinguished group of scientists, will the minister correct his answer of yesterday wherein he told me that the United States Academy of Science made a study and had come to the conclusion that nothing proved that the use of aerosol sprays affected the ozone layer because as late as this morning, the academy categorically denied that they had reached any conclusion or made any reporting indicating a conclusion about the effect of aerosol sprays?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I am not going to change anything before I check with the department that gave me this information.

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of National Health and Welfare on a point of order.

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, first I referred to the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker) as the hon. member for Ottawa-Carleton. I want to make a correction to *Hansard* on that point and I would like to refer to the hon. member by his proper title.

Furthermore, I would like to make clear that during my conversation yesterday with the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), I returned his call; I never committed myself to take the initiative to answer the question. It was agreed that I would be in the House at two o'clock yesterday and that I would be pleased to use this opportunity to answer his question on that matter.

[English]

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): On the point of order raised by the minister, Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the minister for that correction. Ottawa-Carleton is a vacancy which we on this side of the House hope to fill the next time around.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Jarvis.]

Mr. Cullen: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, I wish to say that those opposite are whistling in the dark. It is going to be held by the Grits.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

ANTI-DUMPING TRIBUNAL

STATEMENT BY MINISTER ON ALLEGED CONFLICT OF INTEREST OF CHAIRMAN

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, questions have arisen both inside and outside the House with regard to the conduct of the chairman of the Anti-Dumping Tribunal. From inquiries that have been undertaken, and from information made available, I have concluded that there is no evidence to indicate that Mr. Gauthier had a pecuniary interest or was associated with anyone who had a pecuniary interest in any matter before the Anti-Dumping Tribunal.

I wish to make it clear that there is nothing in the information which has been made available to me which indicates that Mr. Gauthier has conducted himself in any manner conflicting with the due performance of his duties. I have discussed this matter extensively with Mr. Gauthier and he has given me his assurance that there was no conflict of interest involved in his activities, and I have no reason to believe the contrary.

A question has been raised as to whether, pursuant to section 21(7) of the Anti-Dumping Act, the chairman has devoted the whole of his time to the performance of his duties under this act. From the information supplied, it is clear that both before the chairman's reappointment on January 1, 1976, and since, in contemplation of retirement, he has been involved in a variety of private interests during the course of his employment as chairman. While, clearly, in the normal course, any government employee may feel compelled from time to time to deal with private interests during the working day, the number and variety of matters referred to, in my view, go beyond the normal course as contemplated by section 21(7).

In view of the situation that has now arisen, and the strong feeling of Mr. Gauthier that his position on the tribunal has been impaired, I have discussed with him the question of his continued tenure on the tribunal until the end of his term. Mr. Gauthier has submitted to me his resignation as chairman and a member of the tribunal with effect from today's date, and on behalf of the government I have accepted that resignation. Mr. Gauthier has had a long and distinguished career in the Canadian armed forces and public service and has been a strong and effective member and chairman of the Anti-Dumping Tribunal.

Questions have also been asked concerning the involvement of Mr. A. L. Bissonnette in private business ventures while he was a member of the Anti-Dumping Tribunal. I have questioned Mr. Bissonnette about his involvement, and he revealed that he had a financial interest in certain