

SOVEREIGNTY

CANADIAN AIRSPACE—PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION OF PLUTONIUM

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Minister of Transport, I have a question for the Prime Minister. He may recall that last March in reply to a question by the Hon. Member for Windsor West, the Secretary of State gave a rather evasive reply as to whether or not Canada would oppose the flights of plutonium radioactive material from France to Japan across the Arctic.

Will the Prime Minister give a clear and conclusive commitment here today that Canada will register a strong opposition to these proposed flights, as we are getting very close to the deadline?

Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): In short, Mr. Speaker, I can assure my colleague opposite that there will be no overflights of Canada without the full permission of Canada, and the full application of international and domestic law that may affect those flights.

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PATENT ACT

USE OF SECTION 19

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In defending the Government's action to amend Canada's drug patent laws, the Minister has referred to generic drug manufacturers as, among other things, thieves, et cetera. Will the Minister explain to the House why the Government issued a policy bulletin dated June, 1987, which will continue as government policy to use Section 19 of the Patent Act, not only to steal people's patent inventions, but even to the extent of assigning them to other manufacturers who have applied for a government contract? I would ask the Minister to explain to the House who is stealing what, and where is that government policy consistent?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, what I was quoting yesterday at the press conference were remarks by Dr. Polyani, Canada's newest Nobel Prize winner. Dr. Polyani stated on the *Morningside* program on CBC radio that for Canada to adopt a policy that other countries do the research and that we simply import and duplicate that technology is equivalent to being a burglar. Those were Dr. Polyani's words. He further stated that, to be a good burglar, some research still has to be done so that you know the real gems from the false ones.

I am asking the NDP if it is their policy that Canada should continue to be a burglar—to use Dr. Polyani's words—and let

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the rest of the world do the research, or does the NDP wish to see Canadian scientists do that research here in Canada?

DEPARTMENTAL BULLETIN

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): My supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. After making that statement, could the Minister tell the House why in June, 1987, a government Department issued a policy bulletin which instructed its Department to continue using Section 19 of the Patent Act to use other people's inventions totally arbitrarily? Could the Minister explain that to the Canadian people?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): If the New Democratic Party has now come to the view that we should increase patent protection for Canadian inventors, I welcome the change of heart. If the Member would pass over the document in question and would like to participate in an amendment to the law that will strengthen the protection that we provide to Canadian scientists, I welcome this remarkable change on the road to Damascus, and would appreciate his assistance in making the change.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Cochrane—Superior. In view of the hour, I would request that the Hon. Member ask only one question.

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SMALL BUSINESSES

NATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT—CONSULTATION PROCESS

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism.

In July the Minister of State announced a six-month consultation process with native people across the country concerning native economic development, and I say to him well done. However, a briefing note prepared for the Minister of Indian Affairs in that same month called for recommendations on native economic development to be in the hands of the Prime Minister by October. That is a full three months before the consultation process is to be completed. Therefore, native leaders are referring to a bogus and a meaningless consultation process. I ask the Minister of State, is not this elaborate announcement of his nothing more than a sham, an empty gesture, and just a phoney PR pitch?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): That is probably what the Hon. Member would like natives in this country to believe. It is not at all a sham. This consultation process had been promised by the Government. The Prime Minister stated clearly in 1984 that these programs would not be touched without full consultation with natives in Canada. We have engaged in that