

Oral Questions

incidents are localized. Unfortunately it happened here, but at least there is no sign of any other such problems in Canada. Of course they had to do with deliberate acts of tampering. We are continuing the investigation, by the way.

I want to add on the general problem of drug security packaging that, after extensive consultations with the pharmaceutical industry and other interested parties, we will be promulgating regulations under the Food and Drugs Act to provide consumers with additional protection. These new regulations will be effective as of the next—I am speaking Chinese, I am sorry; I am speaking like Crosbie right now—

[Translation]

—what I mean is, the 1st of January 1984!

[English]

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): I am not going to touch that one with a 3.584 metre barge pole, Madam Speaker.

APPLICATION OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Madam Speaker, could the Minister say whether these regulations will be voluntary on the part of manufacturers, or mandatory? Will they be legislated, as she said, in 1984, to make security precautions mandatory for non-prescription drugs?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, I will have to countercheck, but my understanding is that they will be mandatory. The way the Hon. Member asks his question creates doubt in my mind, so I will come back to him and to the House with a reconfirmation of it. I forgot to say that as part of the new regulations the labelling will have to indicate whether or not the drugs have been opened prior to being sold.

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POLITICAL PARTIES

BUTTON WEARING LIBERALS

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services. It is clearly visible that the Minister and Hon. Members on the Government benches are wearing buttons with the Prime Minister's name on them.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Friesen: It is not so clearly visible that they are written with very easily erasable crayola.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Friesen: Since Marshall McLuhan has said that the medium is the message, I wonder whether the Minister of Supply and Services and other Government members are trying to convey a subtle message to the Prime Minister, or

have they finally agreed that, whereas one can lead a Liberal to a water hole, one cannot make him drink?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): Madam Speaker, I can tell the hon. gentleman that on this side of the House we are very pleased to wear this particular button. There has been no hesitation at all in wearing the buttons, and we can see that the Hon. Member has no difficulty reading what they say.

Madam Speaker: We are away out in left field as far as that question and answer are concerned. The Hon. Member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe.

Mr. Beatty: The whole Government is away out in left field.

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THE PRESS

CONSTITUTIONALITY OF PROPOSED NEWSPAPER REGULATING LEGISLATION

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to one of the Government leftfielders, the Minister of State for Multiculturalism, who has been waging a one-man war on Canada's newspaper industry.

An Hon. Member: You are away out in left field.

Mr. Beatty: If the Minister's colleague will let me finish, in view of the fact that within the past two weeks the Minister was reported to have made another speech in which he said that he would be tabling legislation in the House before the end of the month to regulate the newspaper industry, will he tell the House whether he has asked for and received a legal opinion on the constitutionality of what he is doing? If so, will he table that opinion in the House of Commons at the same time the Bill is introduced?

Hon. Jim Fleming (Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Madam Speaker, I have not said nor read anywhere where I was reported to have said that I would table the Bill in the House. I said that I hoped to have drafted legislation ready by the end of this month. I still have that hope. Although I might not make that deadline, I hope I will.

As to constitutionality, the advice of the Department of Justice, which I take as a Minister, is that our proposal will be quite within constitutional parameters.

LEGAL OPINION

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe): Madam Speaker, could the Minister tell us whether he read the article in *The Gazette* of Montreal on Tuesday, May 31, which indicated that the Minister hoped to table legislation affecting the ownership and accountability of daily newspapers, by the end of June? In view of the fact that he says he is confident about the constitutionality of his proposals, how does he square