

senior Staff members are Anglophones—what does the Prime Minister intend to do to take corrective action at the top and thus set an example for others, and show that employees can work in either English or French in federal offices?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I did not see the Commissioner's comments regarding this particular allegation. I think it is public knowledge that with Paul Tellier, whom I appointed Clerk of the Privy Council and Bernard Roy, who is my Chief of Staff, and with whom I work regularly, that as a result of this situation, in the course of a normal working day—aside from Cabinet meetings and my presence here in the House—about 70 per cent of my work in the course of the day is done in French. I think that is not only normal but desirable, and I am prepared to explain and defend my point of view at any time, before the Commissioner or anyone else.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

\* \* \*

[English]

## PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

### CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister for International Trade, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. It was reported on CBC television news last night, and confirmed in Washington today, that the introduction of the Canadian Government's generic drugs Bill has been delayed until after the vote by the U.S. Senate Finance Committee on the proposal for free trade talks. Since this clear linkage between free trade and generic drugs was explicitly denied by the Minister for International Trade in the House yesterday, will the Prime Minister explain that statement and inform the House of other free trade preconditions demanded by the U.S. administration and Congress?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister for International Trade clearly spelled out the Government's position yesterday. If his position is inconsistent with the CBC, so be it.

### POSSIBLE PATENT LAW AMENDMENTS—EFFECT ON CONSUMERS

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Since it has already been disclosed that the generic drug Bill will contain no legal requirements that the multinational drug companies increase their Canadian investment in research, will he explain how these continuing concessions will do anything for the Canadian consumer who may be faced with paying an extra \$100 for each new prescription for the next 10 years?

## Oral Questions

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post):** Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the Hon. Member wait until we make the announcement on this policy before making any comments on any rumours of that kind.

\* \* \*

● (1450)

## AGRICULTURE

### INTRODUCTION OF AGRI-BONDS

**Mr. Jack Scowen (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. When will the Minister release the decision on the 6 per cent agri-bonds which we promised during the election campaign?

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, that is an excellent question, I can assure you of that.

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

**Mr. Wise:** Perhaps I should go back and remind my hon. friend and colleague that, consistent with our campaign commitment, we referred that and two other items to the appropriate standing committee. That committee reported on those three items and, with respect to the specific item raised by the Hon. Member, the agri-bond issue, it is currently being discussed, in the over-all context of the farm finance issues, between myself and my provincial colleagues.

\* \* \*

## OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

### COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT—CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. This morning the Commissioner for Official Languages tabled his annual report in which he criticized the Government for its lack of commitment to language equality. He said: "Last year we called for renewal but so far no real action has been taken". When will the Prime Minister table his renewal program and his amendments to the Official Languages Act?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, unless I am mistaken, I think the critical remarks to which my hon. friend refers were addressed to past Governments, plural.

**Mr. Allmand:** Oh, no, last year.

**Mr. Mulroney:** I said I believed so. I will take another look at it and we will see.