

Oral Questions

Ontario, and in the West. There are young Canadians who want to do that research.

• (1425)

Let us look at the example of cyclosporin. We all applaud when a successful transplant operation takes place. Other people have developed this technology and I am saying that we, as Canadians, can develop some of those drugs as well. It is about time that we recognize that, stand up and take some credit for what we do.

REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF COST IMPACT STUDIES

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister, but before I ask it, please excuse me. I have sent my personal congratulations to the Leader of the Opposition. I wish to say now, on behalf of all my colleagues, that we do congratulate him most sincerely on coming through a tough personal experience of which all political leaders know something. We wish him well, and I am sure he will understand if we say that we wish that all his future happiness be strictly personal.

On to other matters. I would like to ask the Prime Minister about the change in the drug legislation being contemplated by the Government. I met with senior citizens and druggists in Toronto, Hamilton, and Windsor on the weekend. Without exception, they urged the Government to withdraw the present legislation. Given that, will the Prime Minister produce the studies that provide evidence of the reduced costs described by the Minister in the press release that was sent out on the weekend? Will the Government at least come clean and provide those studies so that the House may look at them?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, this is a question that was asked of me in writing by the NDP health critic and we responded at that time. It is within the jurisdiction of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has said very clearly that he would like to get this matter into committee because that is where the discussions should take place and the facts should be assessed. Let us allow the parliamentary process to work. Bring the matter to committee so that the Hon. Member may get results.

REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF ALL STUDIES

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, what the Minister has said is not the case. He has refused to produce the studies, saying that they are cabinet documents. I am referring to a new set of studies. I am directing my question to the Prime Minister who preached open government. Considering that the Minister has refused to produce the earlier studies done on the impact of this Bill and that he put out a press release on Friday referring to additional studies, will the Government please come clean, be honest with the people of Canada and give us all the studies now?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada is being honest. The Government has looked at this matter very clearly. In the health care system there is always a balance between the ability to pay and the ability to have the very best and the very newest.

Day after day I hear Members saying in the House that we need more money for universities and more opportunities for our young people to do research. This is one way we can do that. Surely the best way to look at the details of this, as all Hon. Members with experience in the House know, is to take this matter to committee where these studies or other facts as the Hon. Member likes to portray them can in fact be investigated and examined.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT MINISTERIAL STUDIES BE MADE PUBLIC

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister, who promised the Canadian people open government.

Last week, the Minister refused to publish the departmental studies. This is another example of departmental studies being withheld.

I want to ask the Prime Minister: Does the Government intend to disclose these studies for the benefit of the public? Where is this open government?

• (1430)

[English]

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, it's the same question, and the same answer applies. I can only ask the Hon. Member to do the thing that every parliamentarian understands. When a matter has been debated in the House, it goes to committee for full examination.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

SUPERMAILBOXES—COST OF REPAIR

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, we all know about the national blitz to inspect thousands of superboxes last Monday and Tuesday, and the repair of over 300. Today we have another national blitz. It is called a security retrofit of all the superboxes across Canada, although last week in the House the Minister assured us the mail was safe. I ask the Minister if he has any estimate of what it is costing to transport the technicians to every corner of the country, pay for their hotel rooms, their labour, and so on for the second time in a week to repair those supermailboxes? Would the Minister agree that it would be much cheaper to restore door-to-door mail delivery?