

those lands will be used for affordable and conventional housing, and an answer is expected from the municipal authority very soon.

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● (1500)

## PATENTS

### PULP AND PAPER MAKING—DE LONG PROCESS

**Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Hon. Minister of State for Science and Technology. It concerns the patent for the de Long process which has been owned by Canadian Patents and Developments Limited for some seven years now. It has the potential to revolutionize pulp and paper making by making possible, through the process of breaking down cellular fibres, the use of the hardwood so-called weed species.

Since Canadian Patents and Development Limited has held this patent for some seven years, could the Minister explain why no licences have ever been granted to commercialize it?

**Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State (Science and Technology)):** Mr. Speaker, I am familiar with this dossier and I am also familiar with the fact that the inventor has had a licence to commercialize the technology for some time. However, there were some unfulfilled obligations which the inventor had to CPDL which put certain encumbrances upon the transfer of the technology to the private sector.

In any case, we are very much concerned that this technology should be utilized particularly in Canada, since it appears to be revolutionary and beneficial. CPDL, I am informed, has engaged a consultant to give it the advice it needs to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion. The consultant's report has now been received and CPDL will act accordingly on the advice.

### USE OF TECHNOLOGY

**Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, since this country has a deficit in pulp and paper machinery and processes, and since we have had expressions of interest in this technology from the U.S.S.R., Italy, and China, will the Minister assure this House that everything will be done to clear away the administrative obstructions to enable the marketing of this technology by Canadians for the benefit of Canadians?

**Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State (Science and Technology)):** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that whatever we are able to do, that is the Government particularly in the sense of dealing with CPDL, will be done. However, should the case have to be resolved in the courts we would encourage the Crown agency to proceed in that fashion as well.

## Oral Questions

### ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

#### TREATMENT OF OBSCENE VIDEO MAKERS

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Solicitor General I would like to ask my question of the Acting Prime Minister.

A year and a half ago the Liberal Party asked the Government to convene an independent inquiry into allegations of sexual harassment in the RCMP. The Government refused and we now see the results of that refusal.

Reports today confirm that almost one year after a female RCMP officer was the subject of a pornographic and an obscene video while she slept, the so-called punishment meted out at this point to her colleagues involved only "a fine and/or counselling". There was not a single day of work lost, nor a single suspension. Does the Government feel that that is an appropriate reaction and response for the activities of sexual harassment existing in the RCMP?

**Mr. Murray Cardiff (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows full well a thorough and full investigation was completed by the Commissioner of the RCMP. It was decided that charges were not warranted at this time and the matter, we feel, has been cleared up.

#### REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, we have a situation where the female officer involved has been forced to transfer out of the Musical Ride. Obviously if she were in that kind of a situation she would not feel too comfortable staying there. Her colleagues haven't had a fine and haven't had a single day lost at work. They have not been suspended.

I want to ask the Government once again whether it feels the response to the obscene video that was prepared by officers in the RCMP, which is basically a fine or counselling, is an appropriate response. If not, will the Government do what the Liberal Party suggested a year and a half ago, and that is to have an independent assessment of the situation of sexual harassment which has been ongoing in the RCMP?

**Mr. Murray Cardiff (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated previously, an investigation has been completed. There is still the possibility of disciplinary action being taken against the individuals involved. That will be taken care of.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Windsor-Walkerville, a single question.