

Oral Questions

supervision system away from professional officials and turning it over to volunteers?

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the hon. gentleman that we do not consider what we are doing reckless or playing with public safety. I have reviewed this matter quite thoroughly with my staff. It involves only a maximum of 25 per cent of parole cases in Toronto and public safety is not being jeopardized.

OFFICIALS' ATTENDANCE AT TORONTO RALLY

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, the Minister will be aware that while he was touring the country on the subject of crime prevention there was a rally in Toronto. I want his assurance that the officials who participated in that rally will not be punished for doing so.

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I can advise the Hon. Member that there is a code of conduct for employees of the Canadian Correctional Service of which I am sure they are aware. In any event, I am not aware at this time of any disciplinary action being taken or contemplated concerning the employees who took part in that rally.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

REVIEW OF INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT PRACTICES

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. It has been suggested that some purchasers of machinery and equipment have taken excessive investment tax credits through the medium of overstating trade-in allowances. Does the Minister intend to review what has gone on and, if so, who is he targeting and what taxation years will be affected?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I can tell my colleague that indeed there has been concern for some time that there may be some abuse of the investment tax credit and capital cost allowance, contrary to their original intention. There is no specific group targeted. The situation is, as I have said in letters to my colleagues, that it will be done methodically in different areas of the country after taxpayers are given notice. There is no cause for concern. It is just to make sure that there are no abuses of the system.

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PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION ON NOVA SCOTIA

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Last week the Conservative Minister of

Health of Nova Scotia said that the extra cost to that province over the next 10 years if the patent drug legislation passes will be \$146 million. He said that unless the federal Government gives the province that extra money it will have to come out of other money the province puts into health care. Why is the Minister bringing in legislation which will increase the profits of the multinational drug corporations, already the most profitable in the country, and thereby harming so many seniors and others in that province?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member were sincere in that question he obviously does not know anything about the Bill, what it contains, its effects, ramifications or consequences. I appeal to the Hon. Member and his House Leader to co-operate with our House Leader, reach agreement to proceed with this legislation on second reading, get it into committee, and we can examine all those questions. I am sure if he keeps an open mind and remains intellectually honest he will see that it is good legislation for Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Hon. Members will know that in the cut and thrust of debate in Question Period we should be very careful not even to get close to imputing motives. I am sure all Hon. Members know that.

JOB CREATION INQUIRY

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, the figures I used came from the Conservative Minister in Nova Scotia so maybe this Minister should talk to him. That province has calculated that it will cost the province an extra \$146 million in the next 10 years. The Minister has talked about 3,000 new jobs. How many of those jobs will be in Nova Scotia given that 96 per cent of the industry is now located in Ontario or Quebec?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have just come back from making announcements concerning 50 new jobs and \$150 million investment in British Columbia, a \$100 million investment in Alberta, and great investments in Quebec and Ontario. The benefits will be very widespread. However, the kind of detailed information he has asked for needs to be provided in committee. I repeat that if we allow this to go to committee and give it a careful and honest examination he will see that it is good legislation and none of the scare stories have any validity.

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AGRICULTURE

ASSISTANCE FOR GRAIN FARMERS

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. It is now six weeks since the Prime Minister announced an aid program for grain farmers who are suffering the lowest prices since the 1930s.