

S.O. 21

What good is an action plan if it is to be secret and kept at the premises of the employer for several years? One of the values of an action plan is that it be made available to the other parties involved in achieving the goal of employment equity. If it is available to everyone there is a greater chance that employment equity will be achieved. May I call it one o'clock?

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order please, it being one o'clock I do now leave the Chair until two o'clock.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

EVENTUAL RISE IN DRUG PRICES—CONSEQUENCES FOR WOMEN

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my concern about the legislation pertaining to drugs which the Government is expected to announce shortly.

It has referred to the possibility of creating new jobs, through negotiation, in the pharmaceutical industry by guaranteeing a monopoly to companies which manufacture trade mark drugs against an increase in the prices of drugs.

Before a decision is made, I want to indicate to the House just how concerned I am about a possible increase in the prices of drugs. Women will probably be very much affected by such a legislation. A large percentage of them are users of drugs, either for themselves or their children, and the older they are, the poorer they are.

When we know that single parent families headed by women live below the poverty line will suffer the most because of the social and economic policies of this Conservative Government, we cannot denounce too strongly any possible increase in the prices of drugs that the Government is said to be about to go ahead with and which would be bad news indeed for women.

* * *

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LIBYA—SAFETY OF CANADIAN CITIZENS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, concerned and thoughtful people everywhere condemn terrorism in all of its forms and seek viable solutions to end it.

So, too, must we as responsible parliamentarians seek ways and means to stop the escalation of these hideous international terror tactics.

Today, however, our concern must lie with the welfare, security, and safety of the 1,300 Canadian citizens living and working in Libya whose lives have been placed in considerable peril. The Canadian Government and Parliament must give the utmost priority to all actions and initiatives which will reduce this risk to Canadian lives in Libya and nearby areas.

We call upon the Government, Parliament and, indeed, all Canadians to work together at this very tense and critical moment to accomplish whatever is necessary to bring about an expeditious end to these events of fear and bloodshed.

* * *

LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT IN NORTHERN NEW BRUNSWICK

Mr. Albert Girard (Restigouche): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the Government for some action on behalf of my constituents. We in northern New Brunswick want to participate in the great recovery Canada is experiencing at present. In general the Progressive Conservative Government must be commended for its achievements in combating unemployment. We have only just begun and already the unemployment rate has dipped to its lowest point since March, 1982.

Unfortunately, Restigouche has not enjoyed the benefits of this national recovery and I am now asking for some relief before it is too late. The most recent statistics show northern New Brunswick with an unemployment rate of 25.6 per cent. This figure is tragic enough in itself but the real unemployment rate is much higher if one considers those who have just given up trying to find work. In reality it is probably closer to 40 per cent. We need help, and we need it immediately.

* * *

CANADA POST CORPORATION

CLOSURE OF ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY POST OFFICE

Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines): Mr. Speaker, we all appreciate the necessity of Canada Post operating on a cost efficient basis, but consider, Mr. Speaker, a town of 10,000 persons being cut off from mail delivery service. In effect that is what happened when the only Canada Post operated post office along the St. Lawrence Seaway was closed, cutting off for many seamen the only contact they have with their families and business and commercial interests.

The Marine Post Office on the Welland Canal was the only address sailors on the Seaway knew. It was there to serve the ordinary postal needs of Canadians who worked the ships on the world's greatest inland waterway. There are many other