

Oral Questions

with these VISA workers as soon as possible so that they may pass on their concerns?

Hon. Walter McLean (Minister of State (Immigration) and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate, as the Hon. Member knows, that one of the reasons we have introduced the employment equity package, for which we are seeking support from all sides of the House, is for the very reason she raises. I will look forward to the Hon. Member's support to ensure that we bring this important legislation before the House.

* * *

[Translation]

PATENTS**IMPORTANCE OF UNIVERSITIES' CONTRIBUTION TO PHARMACEUTICAL DISCOVERIES**

Mr. Jim Edwards (Edmonton South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

The recommendations contained in the report of the Eastman Commission on the pharmaceutical industry failed to deal with the role of our universities in the manufacture of products.

Could the Minister assure the House that the present review of the Patent Act will recognize the fundamental contribution of the universities in the area of pharmaceutical discoveries?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post): Mr. Speaker, since the tabling of the Eastman report, we have received of course many representations from various universities and our officials are compiling their concerns and views on a continuing basis.

I can assure my colleague that those views will be taken into consideration when we start drawing up our policy for the review of the Patent Act, especially as far as the pharmaceutical industry is concerned.

* * *

● (1140)

MINORITIES**REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT PRESENT REPORT**

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Secretary of State, but in his absence I will direct it to the Acting Minister.

A few years ago the Secretary of State sponsored a study on the situation of linguistic minorities in Canada—at my request, I might add. People in every Canadian province were asked about the situation of minority groups with respect to

education as well as access to the courts and Government services. In a speech delivered last May 10 the then Secretary of State announced or stated that the study of Professor Pierre Boucher was complete.

Considering the priority of the case of minorities and the fact that the capital city of Ottawa is today the site of a conference on the theme "Minorities, the time for solutions", can the Minister comment on this and even table the report for everyone to read?

Hon. Andrée Champagne (Minister of State (Youth)): Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State is absent and I should think he is attending the conference mentioned by the Hon. Member. I take note of the question and I am sure he will provide a complete answer upon his return. I know he is extremely interested in this matter and that the report is under active consideration by the Secretary of State.

BUDGET INCREASES FOR OFFICIAL LANGUAGES GROUPS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Given the priority of the matter and the Minister's interest, would she confirm that the Foucher report recommends an increase in the budget of official languages minority groups so they will be in a better position to defend their rights in the provinces?

Hon. Andrée Champagne (Minister of State (Youth)): Mr. Speaker, I did not have an opportunity to delve into this file. I take note of the question and I am sure the Secretary of State will answer the Hon. Member as soon as possible.

* * *

NATIONAL DEFENCE**PROMOTION OF PEACE—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence.

As the Minister is aware, many thousands of Quebecers will walk Saturday through the streets of Quebec City, Montreal, Rimouski, Baie Comeau, Rouyn, Hull, Sherbrooke, Trois-Rivières and Chicoutimi, and will ask that the Government of Canada allocate the cost of one F-18 fighter, or \$62 million, to the Peace Movement in order to further the cause of peace through international aid and reconversion projects.

Can the Minister today assure this House that he will be sympathetic to such a daring project in favour of peace?

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the Department of National Defence