

*Oral Questions*

He is looking for scapegoats to hide his own shortcomings. The facts are very clear and the options many. He can immediately issue a ministerial permit to allow this man into the country. He can grant him refugee status, or allow the community of Yarmouth to sponsor him as one of 6,000 people who will be sponsored by individual communities, over and above government sponsorship, in 1986.

For the Minister to claim that he does not have the power under the regulations to allow this person to come to Canada is a complete and very irresponsible fabrication. That he takes this position when Canadians are prepared to feed, house, and employ this person is a disgrace. The Minister has the power to save this man. He can allow people from Nova Scotia to sponsor this man as they have sponsored four others in the last year, and I cannot understand why he is looking for excuses not to do it. He should simply say he does not wish to extend the hand of compassion and humanitarianism or allow Canadians to act in the spirit of the prestigious award Canada received for helping others in need. That is what he should be doing instead of hiding behind excuses.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD***[English]***PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY****AMENDING LEGISLATION—POSITION OF CANADIAN DRUG MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION**

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. On November 25 my colleague from Saint-Michel—Ahuntsic asked the Minister why he had changed the drug legislation so that multinationals are no longer required to manufacture active ingredients in Canada. As found at page 1504 of *Hansard*, the Minister said:

—we did it because we were asked to by the generic companies and the Canadian Drug Manufacturers Association.

The Minister is now in receipt of a letter from the Chairman of the CDMA which says:

Your statement in the House of Commons totally misrepresents our meeting. We demand that you retract immediately this false assertion.

Will the Minister admit he was wrong and retract that assertion?

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, actually the first time that question was asked by his colleague was on November 21. He will find a complete answer at page 1399 of *Hansard*. In fact this is a ridiculous discussion.

I wish the Hon. Member would co-operate in getting this Bill to committee so we can follow up on it. However, if he insists on knowing, on September 9, in Toronto, at the offices of Policy Concepts, the lobbying firm for the CDMA, my executive assistant met with Dr. Calenti, head of the CDMA,

and Dr. Kubela, head of Torcan. They said then that the manufacturing provisions of the June 27 draft would not permit the generic companies to get into manufacturing. They would like to see either the first right of refusal removed, which would deny patent protection and is obviously something we do not approve of, or a window of opportunity between licences to manufacture and import. We thought that was a good idea, proceeded with it, and incorporated it into Bill C-22.

## CHANGE FROM DRAFT BILL

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I suggest it is not a ridiculous discussion despite the Minister's attempt to waffle his way out of the situation.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

• (1420)

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** In response to a question from the Hon. Member for Oshawa yesterday he said it again:

It was removed from the Bill because the Canadian Drug Manufacturers Association—asked that it be removed.

Why did he change the legislation? Will he retract his earlier statement? Who influenced him to change that Bill?

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, for the sixth time in this House of Commons, I will repeat. Dr. Calenti, head of CDMA, and Dr. Kubela, head of Torcan, in a meeting on September 9 in Toronto suggested that the provisions in the June 27 draft would not provide the generic companies with an opportunity to get into manufacturing and that they would prefer to have a window of opportunity between licences to manufacture and import. They wanted four to five years. We provided three years. However, the genesis of the idea was from that group. We thought it was a good idea. We would like to get the Bill to committee to demonstrate to the Hon. Member and the rest of the country why it is a good idea.

*[Translation]***REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER SEEK MINISTER'S RESIGNATION**

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, the letter from the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of Canada is quite clear. My question to the Deputy Prime Minister is therefore: Considering that his Minister has misled the House, is he going to advise the Prime Minister to ask for the Minister's resignation?

*[English]*

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, questions about who said what to whom and when are a ridiculous waste of the time of this House.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Ouellet:** Arrogant.