

Oral Questions

Mr. Siddon:—with a view to creating a new industry for Canadian fishermen and to keeping the dollars in Canadian hands and in the pockets of Canadian fishermen. That is why this initiative was approved.

Mr. MacLellan: Mr. Speaker, I knew tuna went to schools but I did not know they carried visas.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacLellan: There is no question of learning from the Japanese. We do not have an offshore bluefin tuna fleet. It would cost \$1.5 million to fund one of those vessels. The Minister has broken every principle of fisheries management.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member is making a point with some vigour, but I would ask that he direct his question to the Minister.

CANADIAN RESOURCES—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I want the Minister to justify how he can give away the resources of the people of Canada just to bail out this Tory-owned company?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, the fact is that we do not have an offshore tuna industry in Canada because the previous Government never went to the trouble to encourage it and to provide those opportunities to Canadian fishermen by exploring alternative fisheries, which we are doing in this case. I take pride in doing that.

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● (1450)

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

PATENT AMENDING LEGISLATION—UNITED STATES POSITION

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs who says that it is mischievous to suggest that there is any relationship between the new patent Bill and the free trade negotiations. Can the Minister deny that it has been the consistent position of the Americans, expressed by both the Senate Committee on Finance and the President of the United States, that a comprehensive free trade agreement will not be approved unless Canadian intellectual and patent laws conform to those of the United States? In fact, is Bill C-22 not a product of negotiations to that end?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, with all the double negatives in the Hon. Member's question I do not know if I can give a single-word answer. The fact is that this matter has nothing to do with the free trade talks. What this has to do with is more

medical research in Canada so that we have Canadian scientists looking for cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, cystic fibrosis and other diseases. I hope that we have done it in a way that will look after the interests of the Canadian consumer. Incidentally, it puts us in phase with the rest of the western industrialized world which respects patent rights.

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is too much to demand that a question that is asked be answered, and not be given this faldral that there is some kind of guarantee that Canada will be the originator of a whole host of drugs for which there is no agreement in which these corporations will engage.

My question to the Minister is, again, quite simple. Would the Minister deny that, repeatedly, various American representatives up to and including the President of the United States have said that there will be no engagement in discussions over a comprehensive free trade treaty unless, among other things, the questions of lumber, oil, foreign investment, and patent law are addressed?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the preamble to the question, I have already announced \$770 million worth of new research and development.

Mr. McCurdy: How about the question?

Mr. Andre: The answer is no—I believe it is no. I am not sure with all the double negatives that the Hon. Member has put in his question. The fact is that this has nothing to do with the trade talks. What this has to do with is the interests of Canada.

The Hon. Member has a vivid imagination—

Mr. Waddell: That's nonsense!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for Annapolis Valley—Hants.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

FORGET COMMISSION REPORT—SITUATION OF EARLY RETIREES

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley—Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is reality and supplementary to the questions asked by the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East and the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt. It is addressed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration to whom I gave general notice of the question. I will not repeat the earlier questions.

Does the Hon. Minister not appreciate that the reason the Government is taking time to assess the Forget Commission