

Eastman: The answer is undoubtedly so. Indeed that's the purpose of—the legislation.

How could that be taken out of context? Surely Dr. Eastman is saying what every person in the country knows—pensioners, retirees, consumer groups—that this legislation will raise prices. Why do you not withdraw the Bill like you should?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the Hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party knows that the use of the word “you”, while it sometimes happens in the Chamber, is frowned upon.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I was on that program for about 20 seconds after 45 minutes of taping. It was spliced to produce a program which had about as much veracity as an episode of *Dallas*. The fact of the matter is that the only people who believe that the price of drugs is going to go up are those unfortunate persons who read the letter from the Leader of the New Democratic Party, in English only I might add, making that claim, which is false.

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have another quote for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs which could not possibly be edited:

Reporter: So there is no doubt in your mind as the chairman of this price review board that prices will rise.

Eastman: Yes, there is no doubt at all.

How could that be taken out of context?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that was the question my office raised with Dr. Eastman this morning.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Andre: As Dr. Eastman pointed out, he tried to explain to the reporter, while he was talking about cash flows to the industry, possible reductions in prices and the delay in those reductions. He knows, as I know and as everyone who honestly looks at the situation knows, that prices will not go up by a single penny as a result of Bill C-22.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, is the Hon. Minister suggesting that the exchange between the reporter and Dr. Eastman was edited and spliced? Does he not admit the integrity of that particular quote?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I just indicated, that particular program was by and large a fabrication designed to support—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: Go back to *Dallas*.

Oral Questions

Mr. Andre: There is one way in which this can be resolved. Let us pass the legislation, take it to committee, look at all these questions, and then let the people make the judgment after they have seen the facts and analyses we will be able to present in that forum.

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO UNITED STATES TRADE NEGOTIATOR

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the same Minister. He has told the House that Dr. Eastman was misquoted. Let me quote from the same program what Clayton Yeutter said, the American negotiator on free trade. When referring to the Bill, he said:

It may raise prices at the retail level of some of these products but better this than low retail prices based on piracy.

Was Clayton Yeutter misquoted? Does the Minister agree with Clayton Yeutter that what we have been doing is piracy?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not know what Clayton Yeutter thinks or says. However, I know the Bill will not raise the price of drugs by a cent. I know that we have a Direct Prices Review Board in place to ensure that this fundamental economic fact remains a reality. I know that we have a four-year policy review by Government. I know we are proposing a 10-year policy review by Parliament to check on these things. I know that 3,000 young scientists are anxious to have a research opportunity in Canada, which apparently the New Democratic Party does not want to see come to pass.

CONSUMER ASSOCIATION'S POSITION

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, why does the Minister continue to say that all the opposition is based upon a partisan approach when organizations such as the Consumers Association of Canada have come up with the strongest opposition to the Bill since it was tabled, having looked at it and having consulted or discussed it with the Minister? They reject all the arguments put forward by the Minister. Would the Minister explain that.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated to the Hon. Member on I do not know how many occasions the facts of the Bill are clear to those who want to keep an open mind when they look at it. Some people are ideologically upset about the fact that there are private sector companies involved in health care. That is fine, if they have the conviction and want to argue it. However, let us get the Bill to committee. Let us look at it and its details. Let me present the analysis which I can present—

Some Hon. Members: No way.

Mr. Andre: They are shouting “No way”. They do not want the facts out. They know the facts will defeat their arguments.