

Oral Questions

to do it indicates that the people are to be mulcted because of the failure of the government to protect them.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS**COST OF EYEGLASSES—SUGGESTED INVESTIGATION BY COMBINES BRANCH—POSSIBLE IMPORTATION FROM CHINA**

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact that various studies estimate that one firm, Imperial Optical, owns between 85 per cent and 90 per cent of all retail optical outlets in Canada, thus constituting an effective monopoly in this field, and in view of recent findings by the Saskatchewan department of health that people are being charged two or three times as much for eyeglasses as they should be, has the minister set in motion an investigation by the Combines Investigation Branch of this situation which is against the public interest?

Hon. Herb. Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): A research inquiry into this matter is already under way. The director and I found an opportunity for a useful discussion of this issue when I met with the Saskatchewan minister of consumer affairs in Regina the other day.

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Following a question I asked on November 30, the minister promised to look into ways and means of encouraging competition by importing lower priced eyeglasses from China. Can the minister inform the House as to the results of his initiative to date?

Mr. Gray: I do not have a report for the hon. lady yet. I shall endeavour to get one for her as soon as possible.

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SPORTS**DISPUTE BETWEEN CIAU AND COLLEGES—REQUEST THAT MINISTER INTERCEDE**

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare in his capacity as the minister responsible for amateur sport. I have given him notice. Will he intercede in the present CIAU dispute with several colleges across the country, affecting college basketball and Canadian championships and tournaments to be played shortly over the Christmas season, especially in view of the fact that a discriminatory by-law passed by the CIAU is before at least one commission on human rights for resolution?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I have much sympathy with universities and colleges in the Maritimes with regard to the particular problem they face. But the hon. member knows I have no

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

power or authority to give instructions to the CIAU. I will be pleased to raise the matter with the CIAU, but the matter is now the subject of discussion and representations among the members of the CIAU. I can only add that the organization is going through the same problems that a lot of Canadians are going through, trying to get Canadian independence at the same time as getting the best players possible. They will have to resolve the problem in their own time.

● (1520)

Mr. Nowlan: I appreciate in part the minister's answer, but in view of the fact the CIAU and the national championships are funded by Sport Canada, would the minister intercede until the human rights commission has at least come to a decision on whether it is a discriminatory by-law on the basis of nationality, race, colour or creed?

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, I believe I said in my answer that I would indeed make representations to the CIAU but that I am in no position to give instructions to the CIAU.

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[Translation]

ENERGY**PROPOSED RETURN TO DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY**

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the hon. Minister of Energy, Mines, and Resources.

Does the minister intend to change his mind about reinstating summer time, or daylight saving time, in order to save energy now that the United States have accepted a suggestion similar to the one I made in this House on October 31?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): No, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**OFFER TO TABLE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS**

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. On November 13, in answer to a question of mine, the minister asked whether I was prepared to table some documents. I am now prepared to table a representative sample, and I ask the minister if he would afford me the vehicle for doing so.