

Oral Questions

to manufacture or purchase their active ingredients in Canada if they wanted to obtain a patent. The Ontario Minister of Health said yesterday on television that he deplored the fact that the new legislation had eliminated this provision. My question is as follows: why did the Minister give in to pressure by the multinationals?

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact, on that matter we gave in to the generic companies which asked, as set out in their submission, "that compulsory licences to manufacture domestic synthetic fine chemicals be granted earlier than 10 years, as an example five or six years, in order to ensure a window of opportunity for meaningful industrial activity". We provided a seven-year exclusivity so that generic companies will have that three-year window of opportunity and, incidentally, bring on generic competition in less time than 10 years. We did this in response to a request from the generic industry.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER REINSTATE PROVISION DRAFTED IN
PREVIOUS LEGISLATION

Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel—Ahuntsic): Mr. Speaker, the June Bill gave a longer time of protection to the generic industry. This Bill will permit the multinationals to buy the ingredients outside Canada, in Puerto Rico for instance, and will not develop the Canadian fine chemicals industry. The Minister should read the Bill of last June and bring back that satisfactory provision. Will he bring it back?

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member knows perfectly well that the use of such terms is inappropriate. Perhaps she could continue her question.

[English]

Mrs. Killens: Will the Minister bring back the provision that was in the June Bill?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): The Hon. Member is asking me that we not provide for there to be generic competition after seven years for manufacturing and to restore the June provision which provided for a full 10 years. Does the Hon. Member want generic competition after seven years or only after 10 years? She should make up her mind.

POSITION OF PROVINCES

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. At the First Ministers' Conference the Prime Minister lectured the provinces on the need for keeping their deficits down, but at the same time the Government is loading millions of extra dollars of costs on the provinces so that it can give millions of dollars to multinational drug companies. Does the Minister think that Canadians are so

dense that they will not be able to see through all this double-talk and hypocrisy?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, every province in Canada will benefit from the increased medical research at universities and teaching hospitals. The provinces will benefit from having better health care for citizens, from having research being conducted in the provinces, and from the creation of jobs for those young people who are now being educated in this important area. This will give them the opportunity to have a job in Canada and we think it is very important. We have done it in a way that produces fair prices, and if the Hon. Member would keep an open mind I am sure he would agree.

Mr. Speaker: Before the Hon. Member for Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands puts his second question, I would ask him to be more careful in the phrasing of it. He is getting very close to using words that are unparliamentary.

Mr. Manly: Mr. Speaker, I will try to be very careful with my words but this is a very important subject.

CREATION OF JOBS

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian people are very concerned and want to know how the Government can go on talking about jobs in research when it has already cut back on just about every research program for which it has direct funding responsibilities. How can the Government do that and talk about research at the same time?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the restoration of patent rights will generate at least 3,000 research jobs in Canada. How can members of the New Democratic Party object to that? Is the Hon. Member saying that, for ideological reasons, the only kind of research worth doing is that done in Government laboratories paid for directly by the taxpayer?

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RAILWAYS

IMPLEMENTATION OF HORNER REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Jack Scowen (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. What action is the Minister taking to implement the recommendations for the method of payment submitted by the Horner Report last spring?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport, I will respond to that question. I know there has been work going on within the Department. The recommendations of the Horner Report are being studied