

Oral Questions

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, we are deeply concerned about the lay-offs. We are also concerned about Falconbridge's reacquisition of 24 per cent of that South African firm. My understanding is it was a strategic corporate move which was not destined to be a long-term policy. Notwithstanding that and not having all the facts before me, I placed a call to the president of Falconbridge and asked to see him to discuss this and other matters, particularly the issue of jobs and the future of Falconbridge as it relates to the future of northern Ontario.

CORPORATION'S INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, that is sufficient only for now. Would the Minister not agree that the voluntary guidelines regarding investment in South Africa are not working? What does he intend to do about Falconbridge's blatant disregard not only for the guidelines but for the Secretary of State for External Affairs' letter regarding the guidelines? What does he intend to do about that?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, part of the purpose in having the president come to Ottawa is to examine this proposed transaction in light of the Canadian Government's policy, to ensure that it is consistent and that we have all the facts.

As to the longer question, I repeat that this Government has taken a very special interest in the economic welfare of northern Ontario. There have been more than seven possible initiatives outlined under the leadership of the Solicitor General, and the federal Government is going to continue pursuing those initiatives and try to address some of the very serious problems affecting northern Ontario. We hope we will have the support of the provincial Government as well.

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PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF AMENDING PATENT LAW

Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel—Ahuntsic): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and concerns pharmaceutical goods. Now that he acknowledged yesterday that the price of drugs will go up, is he prepared today to admit that the vague \$1.4 billion investment in 10 years promised by the multinationals pales in comparison to the \$211 million annual saving multiplied by 10 years? Why is the Minister willing to forgo a \$2.11 billion saving for a promise of \$1.4 billion?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I made no such admission yesterday because the price of drugs will not increase by one cent, not those now on the market, not those coming on the market. I

wish Hon. Members would stop trying to put false words into my mouth.

As to the potential savings and costs, when we get to committee, if the Hon. Member is there and looks at the true facts, she will see that the benefits from this Bill completely overwhelm any costs and those costs will not be in the form of higher drug prices.

Mrs. Killens: Mr. Speaker, I suggest the Minister read yesterday's *Hansard* to see the reply he gave me then. Yes, I am willing to go to committee to study it, and I have a question *en français*.

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHY COST STUDIES NOT TABLED

Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel—Ahuntsic): If the Minister is so sure that this legislation will have more benefits than disadvantages, why is he refusing to table the cost studies?

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the whole idea behind a committee study is that all of these facts, studies and analyses can be gone over in a reasonable fashion and reasonable people can make judgments. If we are able to get along and pass the Bill through second reading and into committee, all of the evidence will be there. She will be able to see that drug prices will not go up by a single penny.

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[Translation]

NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENCE COMMAND

SOLICITATION OF FOREIGN FIRMS TO ESTABLISH PLANTS IN CANADA AND PARTICIPATE IN SDI—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. The Minister of Trade for Quebec, Mr. Pierre MacDonald, has just invited French companies wishing to take part in the Star Wars program of Mr. Reagan to locate in Quebec. My question is this: Does the Minister agree that the provinces or the federal Government can invite foreign companies to locate in Canada if they wish to take part in the Star Wars program of the United States?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I believe that the position of the Government in this matter has always been quite clear. We want to let the companies decide for themselves whether they want to take part in this program or not, and as for any invitation made by the provinces, this is naturally a decision made by the provinces themselves and we simply intend to follow the debate.