

Order Paper Questions

Mr. Robert Bockstael (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): 1. No.

2. Mr. Coulter is employed on contract by the office of the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board, as a special adviser to the minister on the drought situation.

(b) He is paid \$106 per day, professional fees, plus expenses. Contract: June 18, 1980, to August 31, 1981.

(c) Yes.

LIDOFLAZINE

Question No. 2,512—Mr. Cossitt:

1. Is the Department of National Health and Welfare aware that a drug, generic name lidoflazine and trade name Angex, is about to be placed on the market in the United States?

2. Does the government have information with regard to the value of the drug for angina or other heart disorders and, if so, what is the information?

3. Was the drug tested in Canada and, if so, what are its merits?

4. Will the drug be approved for sale in Canada and, if so, on what date?

Mr. Doug Frith (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): 1. Yes, but no "approvable" letter has been sent as yet by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). A committee of experts in the United States recommended approval for use in angina patients who are resistant to other drugs, but asked that further studies be done to clarify a possible adverse effect (abnormal heart rhythm).

2. Yes. A new drug submission is under consideration. A request for additional data was sent to the company in 1979 however no response has been received to date. There has been a change in the last few months in the Canadian sponsor of this drug and this may account for the delay in reply to the department's questions. The department believes that the information submitted was not as complete as that made available to FDA.

3. Yes. Limited studies were done. More precise information is required to substantiate safety and effectiveness in angina.

4. It is impossible to predict at this time if and when lidoflazine will be marketed in Canada.

DILTIAZEM

Question No. 2,513—Mr. Cossitt:

1. Is the Department of National Health and Welfare aware that a drug, generic name diltiazem and trade name Cardiem, is about to be placed on the market in the United States?

2. Does the government have information with regard to the value of the drug for angina, arrhythmias or other heart disorders and, if so, what is the information?

3. Was the drug tested in Canada and, if so, what are its merits?

4. Will the drug be approved for sale in Canada and, if so, on what date?

Mr. Doug Frith (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): 1. No. Diltiazem is under consideration by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration

(FDA). According to the information available that agency has no definite projected date for approval as yet.

2. Yes. Preliminary data are available to us as part of the preclinical submission and published reports. This information indicates probable effectiveness in angina and arrhythmias. Further studies are being done in Canada and elsewhere.

3. Yes. The drug is being tested in Canada. Results will be evaluated when presented.

4. It can be expected to be approved barring any adverse information. The projected date for general marketing is 1982.

NIFEDIPINE

Question No. 2,515—Mr. Cossitt:

1. Is the Department of National Health and Welfare aware that a drug, generic name nifedipine and trade name Procardia, is about to be placed on the market in the United States?

2. Does the government have information with regard to the value of the drug for angina or other heart disorders and, if so, what is the information?

3. Was the drug tested in Canada and, if so, what are its merits?

4. Will the drug be approved for sale in Canada and, if so, on what date?

Mr. Doug Frith (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): 1. The nifedipine submission is under consideration in the United States. The information available to the department indicates that no definite decision has been reached by the American authorities, however, the drug will probably be placed on the market within several months.

2. Yes. Preliminary data are available to the department as part of the preclinical submission and as published reports. This information indicates probable effectiveness in angina. Further studies are being done in Canada and elsewhere.

3. Yes. The drug was and is being tested in Canada. Some results were presented to the department and are being evaluated.

4. Nifedipine can be expected to be approved barring any unexpected or new adverse information. The projected date for general marketing is 1982.

DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL—BILINGUALISM

Question No. 2,524—Mr. Cossitt:

Did the Deputy Postmaster General, Mr. James Corkery, make a recent statement to the effect that increasing numbers of postal employees are being given crash courses in the French language and, if so (a) what was the number of persons involved over the past four years and how many were employed in each province (b) what was and will be the cost or estimated cost of the program?

Mr. Gary F. McCauley (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General): Yes.

(a) 200.

New Brunswick	63.
Ontario	97.
British Columbia	40.

(b) The cost of the program for the fiscal years 1977-78 to