

REPORT OF STUDY COMMITTEE—EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO MINISTER BY PUBLIC

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact that many submissions may guide the minister in drafting the legislation, if it has not already been drafted, will he now indicate whether he is prepared to extend the time for receiving representations beyond January 31, as I asked him yesterday? In view of the fact the minister said that this government is interested in democracy, will he answer me point-blank and advise the House whether he is prepared to extend the time for submission of briefs before the legislation is to be drafted, namely, January 31?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is going to take a good deal of time to draft something so complicated as a revised Bankruptcy Act. Therefore it seems to me that during the time our people are working out this Bill there will be all sorts of opportunities to make representations. I certainly will receive these representations and look forward to paying attention to them as well as giving them a great deal of study.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I do not know why the minister finds it so difficult to answer such a simple question. The answer he has given me today is the same as he gave me yesterday. My question is simply this; is the minister prepared to extend the time from January 31 to some subsequent date? That is all I am asking.

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I do not understand why the hon. member has such difficulty in understanding the answer. I have obviously said twice that anyone is free to make representations at any time and I will be most interested in receiving them. That seems to me to extend the time.

Mr. Alexander: I have one further short supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member on a supplementary question, but we should move on to another subject.

Mr. Alexander: As a result of the minister's evasion I should like to know whether I can now be assured that we can disregard the January 31 date at this time?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I thought that is what I had said.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

An hon. Member: No, you didn't.

Mr. Basford: But I should like people to get their comments in as quickly as they can because this would be helpful to me and the officials of my department.

*Inquiries of the Ministry***INDIAN AFFAIRS**

DIRECTIVE RESPECTING DENTAL SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question arises from a directive sent out by the Department of National Health and Welfare in respect of Indian health services. Therefore I direct the question to the responsible minister, although I feel the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development would also be interested. It refers to dental services to Indian children in school, and the following order is set out:

We are only allowed to supply such prosthesis where it is considered that better than average education is contemplated or has been achieved by the student, and where the student's likely vocation will require inconspicuous dentition.

Is this government policy in respect of dental treatment for Indian students and, if so, will the minister act to remove this obvious discrimination?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will look into that matter and reply later to the hon. member.

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DRUGS

REPORT OF U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION ON INEFFECTIVENESS OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON CANADIAN ACTION

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can the minister indicate to the House whether he is aware of the United States food and drug administration's recent report to the effect that 14 per cent of the over 16,000 drugs sold on the market were found to be ineffective? If so, would he make a statement on motions regarding what action he is contemplating inasmuch as the same drugs are sold on the Canadian market?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, I am aware generally of the matter in the United States referred to by the hon. member. Although I have made a statement previously, I would be prepared to consider making another one later.

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AIR TRANSPORT

POSSIBILITY OF SERVICE BETWEEN CANADA AND PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Are discussions or negotiations going on at the present time, or about to start, between Canada and mainland China with a view to having a Canadian air carrier establish a route to mainland China?