

*Oral Questions*

I must say with regard to the concentration in the ointments and salves sold in Canada versus that in the United States, that ours is about a 50 per cent concentration of what theirs is.

Also the ingredients are listed very explicitly and very carefully on all these salves and ointments sold within the retail business or indeed the wholesale business throughout Canada. There is not the cause for alarm in Canada, as indeed there might be south of the border.

• (1500 )

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair):** Mr. Speaker, that is absolutely outrageous. We are talking about medicines used by teenagers for treating acne. They are supposed to understand that benzoyl peroxide means something.

In fact, the concentrations the hon. member is talking about are the concentrations used for eliciting cancer in animals, the same concentration as used in mice.

I repeat my question to the minister, is this government prepared to re-examine recommendations made by its scientists and an external advisory committee that this stuff be banned from over the counter sales to kids?

**Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, it is very serious and I take the member's question very seriously. I assure him that the health and welfare department will be monitoring this situation very closely.

I have to say the concentration strength of that product in any of the ointments and salves sold within Canada is less than 50 per cent of that of the United States. We will watch this very closely. With regard to labelling, it will become as specific as possible. If there are any further changes I will notify him.

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**GIANT YELLOWKNIFE MINES LIMITED**

**Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour.

Giant Yellowknife Mines Limited in Yellowknife has been involved in a very serious labour dispute for the past several weeks. This is a very ugly strike.

It has all the ingredients that ugliness makes. Replacement workers are being flown in by the company. I really question the wisdom of replacement workers in the safety sensitive position of working underground. Guards are being flown in by the company. Vicious dogs are being flown in to protect the guards.

Violence is happening on the streets of the town every day. Feelings are seething throughout this community reminiscent and analogous to what we have seen recently in large urban centres in this country.

I want to ask the Minister of Labour if he would intervene directly before any more violence happens in this community, to take active participation and bring those parties together?

**Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I am active in this dispute. I have contacted the parties. I am in daily contact with the Government of the Northwest Territories.

For the information of my hon. friend, I have received a request from the Minister of Justice and the Government of the Northwest Territories to impose back to work legislation in this legal strike. I should tell the hon. member this has never been done to my knowledge in the history of this country by any Parliament on a dispute which is private and local in nature.

Nonetheless, because the request comes from the Government of the Northwest Territories, I will consider it very seriously and I will get back to the Minister of Justice of the territories very shortly.

**Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, for the same minister, I appreciate the answer and I realize that he too takes this situation very seriously.

I respect what he has just said concerning trying to bring in legislation, but that certainly takes a great deal of time. The situation, I do not think, will allow for that time.

I ask the minister if he will convene a meeting here in Ottawa, bring in representatives of labour and management into a neutrally acceptable area of Ottawa and try