

[English]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

NORTHERN SASKATCHEWAN—APPLICATION FOR GRANT TO CONSTRUCT PULP MILL

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): My question is directed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. It has to do with an application made by the government of Saskatchewan for some \$12 million for the building of a major undertaking in northern Saskatchewan, which will constitute the largest pulp mill in Canada, in which Parsons and Whittemore of New York, have the largest interest with the government of Saskatchewan having a small interest. The application was made some time ago and the delay is making it very difficult to get the work under way, as it should be, before the break-up in the spring. The matter has been before the minister for some time. Will he tell the House what the present position is?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): The application is being processed by the department. I think it will be forwarded to the Treasury Board in the coming days. As soon as it is approved by the cabinet, we will give an answer to the company.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Will the minister do something about rushing this matter? It has been before his department since January and it is the largest industry for which Saskatchewan has ever applied. With assistance going to other parts of Canada, Saskatchewan would like to be included.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

PUBLIC ORDER (TEMPORARY MEASURES) ACT—COMMUNICATION FROM QUEBEC ON EXTENSION OR EXPIRY

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): My question is for the Minister of Justice. Can he inform the House whether he has received any communication either from the Attorney General or the Premier of Quebec pursuant to a cabinet meeting which is supposed to have taken place last Friday to discuss the possible extension or perhaps the natural expiry of the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): No, Sir, I have not.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): In view of previous answers given to this and similar questions, can the minister inform the House whether it is the intention of the federal government to act automatically on the request of the government of Quebec, or whether prior to any such request being received either he or the Prime Minister will take a position on this important matter?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, the attitude of the government of Quebec is only one of the

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factors which the government will take into consideration.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, in view of that answer by the Minister of Justice I wonder when either he or the Prime Minister will make a statement on motions indicating what other factors will be taken into consideration in the making of this decision?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Parliament will be taken into our confidence very soon, Mr. Speaker.

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HEALTH

STEPS TO COUNTERACT PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY PROPAGANDA AGAINST USE OF GENERIC DRUGS

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. What steps does the Food and Drugs Directorate intend to take to counteract pharmaceutical industry propaganda against the use of properly tested generic drugs?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member may have noticed the announcement concerning the actions we are taking. One is that we are giving quality assurance with respect to many drugs. This has been going on for several months. We are advising the doctors, and everyone else on our mailing list, of our investigations so they can use their own discretion and thereby put more emphasis on low-cost drugs.

Mrs. MacInnis: May I ask when the first reports will be available on the directorate's testing of all brands of the 25 top selling drugs on the Canadian market?

Mr. Munro: Progressively over a period of a year. As we test them, gradually we make the results known.

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CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PAYMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFIT INCREASE TO MINERS

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Does the Minister of Labour intend to see that the 10 per cent increase in UIC benefits, granted in January, will be paid to the miners and not to Devco?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I think the idea is a good one, but the question should be put to the proper minister, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Mr. MacInnis: As a supplementary question I would ask the Minister of Labour why he is deliberately deceiving me on this question?