

Oral Questions

any application for these kinds of swaps. The National Energy Board even raised the possibility of a time swap. I gave an answer which indicates we have to protect the Canadian consumer on the basis of true value. I cannot do more than that at the present time, other than to say we will look at any application which is considered by the National Energy Board. That is the process of elimination, as the hon. member must know.

* * *

[Translation]

HEALTH**PROPOSED STUDY WITH UNITED STATES OF PRODUCT
LAETRILE—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. F. A. Philbrook (Halton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the controversy concerning the pharmaceutical product called Laetrile used for the treatment of cancer, is the government cooperating with the Canadian Medical Association and the United States authorities to determine the medical and legal status of that product as far as its efficiency and its security is concerned.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the Department of National Health and Welfare shares the views of American authorities and the Canadian Medical Association about the pharmaceutical product called Laetrile; to wit that there is nothing to indicate that the drug is effective or sure against cancer.

In addition, I would like to point out that we are in close contact with American authorities; indeed two of my officials recently were in Washington to discuss the matter with American authorities, but I can say to the hon. member that we have no reason to alter our position and we have no indication that Laetrile can be effective for individuals suffering from cancer.

* * *

[English]

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD**METHOD OF FINDING REPLACEMENT FOR CHIEF
COMMISSIONER**

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. When Mr. Vogel retires as Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board, will the minister advertise across Canada for the best salesman available to replace him or will it be a cabinet appointment?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the legal provision requires an appointment by order in council. Obviously, we will search for the very best person if that vacancy does in fact occur.

Mr. Towers: In view of the continuing cheap verbal shots that the minister is firing at the Premier of Alberta concerning

[Mr. Gillespie.]

the selling policies of the Canadian Wheat Board, and in view of the fact that the deputy premier of that province is a brother of the Minister without Portfolio, can the minister state whether or not he has discussed this issue with the latter and what his stand is on it?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I do not think we need to be concerned about any relationship with regard to these statements. I have not been making cheap shots in relation to the Premier of Alberta. What I have been doing is defending the Canadian Wheat Board against rather unfounded attacks by him. I would like members opposite in the Conservative party in this House to say whether they support the Canadian Wheat Board as a selling agency or want interference from provincial politicians.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**DEVELOPMENT OF NEUTRON BOMB—DISCUSSIONS WITH
UNITED STATES**

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Will the right hon. member tell the House what discussions or consultations he has had in his role as an elder statesman of NATO with President Carter about the implication of the United States decision to proceed with the development of the neutron bomb.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): None, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McKinnon: Does the Prime Minister support the development of the neutron bomb which appears to be in line with a philosophy that a limited nuclear war is possible, bearing in mind that acceptance of a limited nuclear war posture by NATO may itself have a destabilizing effect?

Mr. Trudeau: I have not analyzed the problem, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

NATIONAL DEFENCE**POSSIBILITY NATO WILL ACCEPT NEUTRON BOMB—CANADIAN
POSITION**

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I will direct my final supplementary question to the Minister of National Defence who recently attended a nuclear planning group in Ottawa for NATO. Is the government position now that our forces in Europe will not hold or display neutron bombs, although we have artillery equipment there capable of firing such weapons? If NATO accepts the nuclear limited philosophy, will our forces be dependent on other nations for this type of support?