

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member may have anticipated my question but perhaps I could ask a further supplementary. Would the minister be prepared to make a statement on motions in respect of this very important matter in order to put the minds of Canadians at ease?

**Mr. Basford:** Mr. Speaker, I think the last two answers I have given constitute a statement. I am not sure, until the matter of the litigation is cleared up, that there is anything more I can say that would be useful, except to reiterate that the commissioner is acting within the law as fast as he can in processing applications for compulsory licences which will be granted as fast as they can be. When they are granted, I think this will have a beneficial effect for drug purchasers.

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister whether, in order to achieve the objective of lowering drug prices in Canada, he is considering the imposition of a tax or setting a maximum on the allowable deduction of expenses for drug advertising, sales promotion and detail men?

**Mr. Basford:** Not at the moment, Mr. Speaker.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****SOUTH AFRICA—REVIEW OF TRADE POLICIES**

**Mr. Norman A. Cafik (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question I should like to direct to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is Canada reconsidering its trade policies in respect of South Africa in view of the long-time policy of apartheid in that country?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Yes, Mr. Speaker; as the Prime Minister said, this question is under review.

**Mr. Cafik:** Will the Secretary of State for External Affairs also review the policy in respect of the Polymer Corporation, which I believe operates in South Africa?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member is now making a representation or a suggestion to the minister.

**Mr. Cafik:** May I rephrase that question?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member might rephrase the question.

**Mr. Cafik:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to know whether, in the review the government is undertaking in respect of trade with South Africa, it is the intention to review the policy regarding Polymer?

**Mr. Sharp:** Yes, all aspects of our trade with South Africa will be reviewed, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, in this review is the government considering whether it is appropriate to have a preferential Commonwealth tariff in favour of South Africa long after South Africa has ceased to be a member of the Commonwealth?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman knows, this preference is reciprocal and we would have to consider both sides of the question.

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Government House Leader whether he can help to bring forward an answer to my question on Polymer's investments in the Republic of South Africa, which has been on the Order Paper for four or five weeks?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** I will make inquiries, Mr. Speaker.

**POWER****BAY OF FUNDY—CONSULTATION BY PROGRAMMING BOARD WITH DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Prior to the decision by the government not to proceed with the Atlantic tidal power development project, did the Atlantic Tidal Power Programming Board in the course of its studies consult in depth with the minister or his departmental officials?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice and make a report later.

**BAY OF FUNDY—RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION NOT TO PROCEED WITH PROJECT**

**Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the Prime Minister. In