

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is an established fact that when conducting negotiations, the spokesman for one side wants to express the position taken by that side. Mr. Murphy was speaking for the American side, and it is only natural that he should wish to indicate certain requests his side would make. The fact that he can do so is no indication that the Canadian side will accede to those requests.

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[English]

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

FEDERAL FUNDING INQUIRY

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Yesterday at the First Ministers' Conference many Premiers asked the Prime Minister for additional federal funds for regional economic development. The Prime Minister said he was interested in fairness but regretted there was no money left in the pot. Is it not hypocritical to talk about fairness when the Government is denying money for regional development and at the same time can find \$100 million in additional funds to go to multinational drug companies to pay for increased drug costs?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, what this policy does is give Canadians an opportunity to participate in the drug and biotechnology research which is so vitally important to the health and future of this country. We have done this in a way which produces fair prices for the consumer. There are at least 3,000 direct jobs involved, and there will be more than that. If the Hon. Member wants to consider this only in the context of an economic development policy, this is an exceptionally efficient economic development policy. Thinking in terms of the health of Canadians and the future for this country not being involved in this high tech area, I do not see how anyone can responsibly criticize what we are trying to do.

Mr. Axworthy: I have news for you.

Mr. Broadbent: No one other than the whole country is criticizing the Government for what it is doing in this area.

PROPOSED PAYMENT TO NOVA SCOTIA

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Would the Minister try to explain to an unemployed steelworker in Cape Breton why his Premier has to ask for \$25 million more to pay for additional drug costs and at the same time is being denied additional regional development money which could provide a job, perhaps, for that unemployed steel worker in Cape Breton?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I assume that unemployed steelworker,

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along with the Hon. Member and everyone in this House, is vitally interested in trying to find a cure for cancer. I am sure he is vitally interested in trying to find better drugs for disease. I am sure we are all vitally interested in this important area. I am sure that hypothetical steelworker would not like us to say as a country: "We are getting out of this business. We will let the rest of the world do the research. We will opt out and simply pay for drugs from other countries which do the research, through our raw materials". I am sure that steelworker would not support that policy.

● (1125)

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my next question is addressed to the Deputy Prime Minister whose major responsibility is for allocation and making priority decisions.

[Translation]

My question is as follows: Is it fair for a Government to reduce its budget for regional development programs and at the same time increase the price of drugs and the cost to the very same provinces that need regional development assistance?

[English]

Mr. Thacker: Why do you hate young people so much?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs dramatically illustrated that this is a tremendously good economic development program, not only from the standpoint of jobs and the enhancement of Canada's scientific and medical research community, but that it will give Canada the opportunity to do its fair share promoting the human instinct to develop cures for many of the diseases for which a cure has not yet been found. Canada has had a proud tradition in the past. We certainly want to provide the climate for that to continue in the future.

PRICE OF DRUGS

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Lethbridge—Foothills asks us why we hate young people. We do not hate young people. We also intend to fight for the unemployed steelworker.

Why does the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs insist on saying that the prices of drugs will not increase when the Canadian Drug Manufacturers Association calls this Bill a \$650 million annual pill, when several Premiers at the First Ministers' Conference pointed out yesterday that the price of drugs in their provinces will be increasing, and when the Consumers' Association of Canada has quite clearly said that across the board there will be drug price increases? How can the Minister persist in telling the Canadian public that black is white?