

Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act

offered to Canadian workers, and then to foreign workers employed by Canadian companies.

I think my Hon. friend should have read the legislation before raising such issues in the House.

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[English]

HEALTH

TOXIN TAINTED MUSSELS—PUBLIC WARNING

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I see that he has just left the House so I will direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister.

I want to return to the matter of the tainted mussels. The Minister of National Health and Welfare told us that lab animals first died after being tested with the tainted mussels on November 27. They continued to die on November 28. On the morning of November 29, apparently with the knowledge of the Minister, shipment of the mussels was stopped at the request of the Department, but public warning was not given until December 1, two days later.

Why was the public not informed of the danger of the mussels in question at least as soon as the industry was asked to stop shipments? Why this delay? How many people are in hospital now because of the negligence of the Government in not telling the public to stop eating these mussels at the same time as it told the industry to stop shipping them?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, without agreeing in any way with the premise of the question I will take it as notice. I am sure the Hon. Minister will respond tomorrow. He has responded in some detail—

Ms. Copps: He is sneaking out.

Mr. Mazankowski: It is not a cop-out or sneaking out. He has responded in a very comprehensive fashion to the questions which were put. I am sure that the Minister will do so again. I will certainly ask him to do so tomorrow.

AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL EVIDENCE

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, if a sufficient medical link was established to show the connection between the mussels in question and the illnesses sufficient for the Department to tell the industry to stop the shipments in question, why was this same medical evidence not good enough to allow the public to be warned? Why the delay?

There is still no answer to this simple question. This is something important enough for the Deputy Prime Minister

himself to know the answer to. Why does he not have the answer?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, it is, of course, an important issue. Any time an Hon. Member uses the word "if" to preface his question there is hypothesis involved. This could very well be a hypothetical situation.

While in no way agreeing with the premise of the question, as I indicated, I will ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare to respond fully tomorrow.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CORPORATIONS AND LABOUR UNIONS RETURNS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (for the Minister of Supply and Services) moved that Bill C-91, An Act to amend the Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Mr. Hovdebo: I cannot hear you.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? Order. I apologize, I cannot speak any louder than I am right now. Has the House heard the motion? The Hon. Member for Windsor—Walkerville (Mr. McCurdy).

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise to speak on Bill C-91, an Act to amend the Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Order, please. I now realize that the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary meant to speak on behalf of the Government on this Bill. If the House would allow, I will give the floor to the Parliamentary Secretary. However, the hon. gentleman did not rise. I did ask the question three times and, if I heard him correctly, he even said "yes" to the question instead of rising and advising me that he wanted to speak. Do I have unanimous consent to give the floor to the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary?

Mr. Gauthier: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like to say a few words about the situation in which we