

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF NOVA SCOTIA MINISTER OF MINES  
AND ENERGY

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish to draw to the attention of Members the presence in the gallery of the Hon. Ken Streach, Minister of Mines and Energy, of Nova Scotia.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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## OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

## COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS ON BILL C-72

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice with whom I spoke briefly last night on the matter of Bill C-72.

The Minister is aware that the legislative committee dealing with the multiculturalism Bill is being forced by the Government to conclude its deliberations on that Bill at a much earlier stage and to conclude its hearing of witnesses in order to begin clause by clause consideration. Does the Minister plan to express the Government's support, indeed, the support of all three Parties for the official languages Bill, by taking similarly decisive action in the legislative committee dealing with this Bill?

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I do not quite understand the premise of the Hon. Member's question. Is he suggesting that we use the oppressive power of Cabinet to force our Members with respect to matters within committee? Is that what the Member wants us to do? If that is the case, then he should check with his Leader because he is always complaining or alleging that something like that has happened, which never does.

If the Member is asking us whether we are going to pass Bill C-72, you are darn right we are, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT HOUSE GIVE IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION TO  
BILL

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Is the Minister prepared to have the Official Languages Bill considered by the House as soon as the Committee has finished its deliberations?

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, the Government intends to adopt this Bill as quickly as possible.

## Oral Questions

## RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

PURCHASE OFFER FOR CDC LIFE SCIENCES BY FRENCH  
COMPANY—MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. David Berger (Laurier):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology, and it concerns a French company's bid for CDC Life Sciences.

CDC owns Connaught Laboratories which has about 700 employees in Canada and is a world leader in developing vaccines. CDC also owns Bio-Research and Nordic in the Montreal region.

Could the Minister give the House the assurance today that the Government intends to keep in this country the research and development, technology, production and jobs that are part of the CDC Life Sciences group?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, I informed one of my hon. colleagues last week that the Government is very concerned about the attempted acquisition by Mérioux of shares in CDC Life Sciences. As the Hon. Member is no doubt aware, an injunction was granted, at the request of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, to delay any transactions on the stock market to acquire these shares.

Following the injunction, I personally met the president of Mérioux to explain in detail the Canadian Government's position on foreign investment and the Canadian Government's concerns with respect to the developments mentioned by the Hon. Member.

[English]

## EFFECT OF TAX REFORM ON MEDICAL RESEARCH

**Mr. David Berger (Laurier):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance, if I may. A Connaught official revealed last week at a conference on university research in Edmonton that, as a result of the Minister's tax reform measures, it had to abandon plans to raise \$60 million in Canada through an R and D limited partnership. Research to develop an innovative therapy to control diabetes, done at the University of Toronto, has been transferred to a large offshore multinational.

Will the Minister review his tax reform measures which are damaging the ability of companies like Connaught to do research and keep jobs in Canada?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, let me make it clear that we have done a study on tax treatment of research and development in this country in relation to all the other industrialized countries. There is no question that the tax treatment by Canada is better than other countries, and by quite a margin. What the Hon. Member is suggesting that we do here is to recreate a tax shelter. Out of one side of their mouths the Liberals say we should be doing away with