

Business of the House

he was also the Minister of Finance. I submit to you that a question was asked today of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) which relates directly to the Deputy Prime Minister in his responsibility as the Minister of Finance. Therefore, a question put to the Minister of Finance today about a decision, or knowledge of a decision which should have been available to his predecessor, is an appropriate question.

I am not questioning the ruling, but I believe there was a misunderstanding of the question. I would just like to know whether it would be appropriate under Citation 359(6) of Beauséne to ask the present Minister of Finance to tell the House when, after having perused the records of the Ministry, the previous Minister of Finance was aware of an action being contemplated or taken by the Government.

Madam Speaker: The Hon. Member is asking me to interpret the rules in the face of a question which has not been put in a precise manner. I cannot do that. If the Hon. Member has a question, he may ask it. At the time it is asked I will try to do my best to judge whether it is appropriate to address it to one Minister or the other. I just remind the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) that the Minister to whom he is referring cumulates two functions, and I am not quite sure whether on Friday he was answering in his capacity as Deputy Prime Minister. Certainly it was not as the ex-Minister of Finance; I would not have allowed that. I do not think I have, but I will look at *Hansard*. However, I cannot give an interpretation in advance of the question. If the Hon. Member has questions he may ask them, and when they are asked I will try to determine whether it should be asked or not of the proper Minister.

Mr. Deans: Madam Speaker, would you be kind enough to look at the question put on Friday by the Leader of the New Democratic Party, which appears on page 23214 of *Hansard*? Would you then also look at the question put today by the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell)? Would you then review both of those in light of Citation 359(6), and perhaps we could then discuss the matter further?

Madam Speaker: Yes, I will do that.

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[Translation]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that tomorrow, we shall consider Bill C-139 instead of Bill C-143. This I discussed this morning with the Parliamentary House Leader for the Progressive Conservative Party, while I mentioned the fact last week to the Parliamentary House Leader for the New Democratic Party, so that I think we all expect to finish the second reading stage, even if there is no formal agreement on this Bill.

[English]

Mr. Lewis: Madam Speaker, that will be fine with this Party. We have wondered for some time why the Government has not brought on Bill C-139 for debate.

Mr. Deans: Madam Speaker, we were prepared to vote against that measure some time ago.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITION**MR. OGLE—SELF-DETERMINATION OF NICARAGUANS**

Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East): Madam Speaker, to the honourable House of Commons I have a petition from citizens of the City of Saskatoon. It relates to the situation surrounding Nicaragua. The petition reads:

Wherefore the undersigned, your Petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to call on the United States Government to desist from any actions which violate the principles of self-determination of peoples and the non-intervention of states, as defined by the United Nations;

And further to call on the Canadian Government to pursue seriously a policy which promotes peace and non-intervention in Nicaragua, a policy which condemns American intervention in Nicaragua, and which is committed not to force, but to negotiation.

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● (1530)

QUESTION ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following question will be answered today: No. 4,625.

[Text]

TESTING OF DRUG "ANTI-NEOPLASTON"

Question No. 4,625—**Mr. Hawkes:**

1. Did the Department of National Health and Welfare do any testing of the drug "anti-neoplaston" and (a) if so (i) on what date (ii) what did the tests show (b) if not (i) are there any plans to test the drug (ii) on what date will any tests be undertaken and what is the anticipated completion date of these tests?

2. Is the Department aware of any tests in Canada or the United States that have been done on the drug and, if so, who did the tests and what did the tests show?

3. Did Dr. Stanislaw Burzynski or any official from his Texas clinic contact the Department and, if so (a) what form did the contact take (b) what was the Minister's response?

4. Did Dr. Burzynski or clinic officials make known the ingredients of anti-neoplaston and, if so (a) to whom (b) what are the ingredients?

5. Have departmental officials initiated any contact with the clinic and, if so (a) on what date (b) what form did the contact take?