

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: Order. The minister did not indicate that he was prepared to table the documents from which he was reading; he indicated that he was prepared to table correspondence in which he ordered an investigation into certain matters two years ago. Presumably the minister, if he indicated he is prepared to table them, will do so.

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COMMUNICATIONS**GRANTING OF CABLE TELEVISION LICENCES IN HAMILTON—
POSSIBLE POLICE INVESTIGATION**

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications. I wonder whether the Minister of Communications knows of or has caused any sort of police investigation, or any other type of investigation of a criminal nature, into the granting of cable TV licences in the Hamilton area?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question of the Solicitor General on the same matter. I ask him the same question, and as well I ask him whether he has any evidence, or whether any allegations have yet been brought to his attention, which would lead him to believe that there should be a police investigation into the granting of cable TV licences in the Hamilton area.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, no such allegation has been brought to my attention. As far as I know there is no such investigation underway, but I will check into that.

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, I have a final supplementary question for the Solicitor General. Would he obtain a transcript of a television program this morning called "Canada AM" and the interview of Mrs. Ellen Reinke of Hamilton in which some remarks were made concerning the issuance of cable TV licences in the Hamilton area, and would he report back to the House if he thinks an investigation is warranted?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to get a transcript of the program.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION INTO DREDGING CONTRACTS—
POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER AGENCIES**

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, at this time I want to answer a question put to me a little earlier. I was asked whether other agencies were involved in the investigation with respect to the dredging contract in the Quebec City area. I said other agencies were involved. Then, the question was: Could you reveal the other agencies? I checked into that, and the answer is that it would interfere with the investigation if we made public the other agencies that are investigating. That would hinder the investigation.

[Mr. Baldwin.]

HEALTH**ALLEGED FAILURE OF PRODUCTS OF CONNAUGHT
LABORATORIES TO MEET STANDARDS—GOVERNMENT
ACTION**

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister of health. In view of the fact that Connaught Laboratories are now under the control of the Canada Development Corporation, that the mandate of this corporation in the health care area is one of long term profitability, and that this mandate has resulted in more than one instance in Connaught being forced to compromise their own product quality control standards and to ship products which did not meet regulatory requirements, has the minister taken any corrective action to ensure that quality control is up to international standards and that the quality of the product is up to international standards?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I do not necessarily accept all the hon. member's preliminary comments. I simply say that frequent inspections were made in the Connaught Laboratories; as a matter of fact, the average number of inspections in recent years has been higher there than the average for the whole pharmaceutical industry. Each time deficiencies were found, steps were taken by the Connaught Laboratories at the request of our department to remedy the situation. Each new case brought to our attention has been investigated immediately by officials of my department.

• (1440)

[English]

Mr. Yewchuk: Do I take it from the minister's answer that he is quite satisfied that all products of this laboratory are indeed up to the world standard of acceptability?

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, I am wondering what the hon. member means by world standards. I am not aware of such a thing. There are national standards in each country and it is up to each country to enforce the standards which apply within its territory to imported or locally made products.

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[English]

CANADA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**REQUIREMENT THAT CORPORATIONS BE PROFITABLE—
SUGGESTED CHANGE FOR COMPANIES PRODUCING HEALTH
PRODUCTS**

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): While the minister checks what the standards are, may I direct a question to the minister responsible for the Canada Development Corporation and ask him whether, in view of the difficulties that have arisen because the mandate of CDC requires the corporation to be profitable and this does not appear to be compatible with products of high standard, he would be willing to consider changing the mandate so far as health care products are concerned.