

Oral Questions

[Translation]

INQUIRY IF DRUG WILL COST MORE WHEN PLACED ON MARKET

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, I'm starting to understand the Minister's position or the point he is trying to make, which is not quite logical since we can hardly expect the price of a drug that is not yet on the market to increase. I agree, because the price hasn't been set yet. So if we are agreed on that point, does the Minister also agree that once the drug is on the market, prices will be higher because there will be no competition?

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, when a new brand name drug is introduced there is no competition under existing law or under the new law. The question is when do the generic drugs come on the market. On average, historically, generics have taken eleven and a half years to come on the market. We are proposing a 10-year period of exclusivity. So the argument about when the generics come on is the kind of debate we should be having in committee. I hope the Hon. Member will co-operate in getting this Bill to committee so we can discuss it.

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TRADE

EXPORT OF HELICOPTER PARTS TO IRAN

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. My understanding is that his Department was reluctant to permit the sale of helicopter parts to Iran in the fall of 1985. President Reagan then phoned the Prime Minister and enlisted his support for that sale because of the covert action he was then taking to send arms to Iran. The Prime Minister, through the Minister, decided that the permits would be granted. Was Canada the third country referred to by President Reagan last night? Are those facts correct?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to say that the allegations just repeated on the floor of the House by the Hon. Member are 100 per cent false.

Mr. Crosbie: As usual. The little girl who cried wolf.

SHIPMENT ROUTE INQUIRY

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, we are also reliably informed—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Ms. Jewett: —that the helicopter parts were included in a cargo shipment from Italy where they were being stored by

Pratt & Whitney, via Israel to Bandar Abbas in Iran. Will the Minister tell us if that is the case?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not know the particular route. What I do know is the process by which the exports from Canada were authorized. That was a Canadian process by a sovereign Government acting absolutely independently.

I should say, by the way, that there was in 1983, by the Liberal Government, the authorization of the export of military engines to Iran. That came back to me for a decision in 1985. I reversed the Liberal decision and stopped the export of those military engines to Iran.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SEA SHEPHERD CONSERVATION SOCIETY—ACTIVITIES IN ICELAND AND NORTH PACIFIC

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and concerns the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and its leader's recent comments in the national press. Paul Watson, a Canadian from Vancouver, admitted that his organization destroyed two Icelandic whaling vessels and a processing plant, causing \$2.8 million in damages. He has now publicly announced that his group intends to destroy Asian fishing nets in the North Pacific. What is the Canadian Government's reaction to one of its citizens playing havoc on the seas and publicly boasting of breaking the laws of other countries?

Mr. Benjamin: In this case it is a good idea.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, a Member of the NDP said "In this case it is a good idea". I reject absolutely that kind of encouragement.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): This Government condemns any illegal action. The RCMP is conducting investigations now to see if any Canadian laws have been broken. If they were, the action which would ensue from that investigation will ensue.

● (1440)

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Nickel Belt.

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, my question—

Mr. Axworthy: I beg your pardon. Excuse me.

Mr. Rodriguez: Listen, brother, you're not from Nickel Belt.