

*Oral Questions*

in direct violation of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member should withdraw the innuendo in the first part of the preamble.

**Mr. Barrett:** It is not an innuendo, it is an accusation.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Okay, withdraw the accusation if that is how he is going to describe it, because he knows there is no truth in it.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to the hon. member's question because he has misstated something I said in this House last week, when he said that I referred to some practices undertaken by municipalities in the southern United States as contrary to the free trade agreement. They are not contrary to the free trade agreement; they are practices which I would just as soon not see take place. They are not contrary to the free trade agreement.

He did ask a specific question: Do we have people monitoring what is happening in the United States to see whether actions are taken which are contrary to the free trade agreement? Yes. That is what our embassy is for. It is very active in aggressively seeking out places where bills have been presented by various members of Congress and making sure that the administration understands where they are contrary to the free trade agreement. In practically every case we have been able to get those beaten down.

**Mr. David Barrett (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca):** Madam Speaker, in the aside that we are exchanging, I will not withdraw that statement about Olympia & York. The government will find money for them if they need it and that is my accusation.

My second question is for the same minister. Is the minister aware that two days ago, in the House of Representatives, a bill passed that would require all ships involved in foreign trade to certify that they were neither built nor repaired with the aid of foreign subsidies? They were ships without certificates showing that would be barred from transporting goods in or out of United States' ports. Also the bill would require the commerce department to publish a list of foreign ships that receive government subsidies.

The only large floating drydock in the hands of the Canadian people is on the west coast of Vancouver and it has had a subsidy. It could not have been built without one. If this bill is enforced, it means any ship carrying Canadian products into the U.S. could not land in the United States.

This is a direct violation of the free trade agreement. What is the minister going to do about it?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade):** Madam Speaker, I suppose the innuendo or accusation, however he wants to describe it, that he has just thrown this way would also apply to his friends in Queen's Park because the speculation that is running around about Olympia & York applies equally as much to the province of Ontario as to the federal government. Is he saying his friends in Queen's Park are wrong as well?

When it comes to printing money, that is a specific policy I understand of the New Democratic Party. With all the bluster that the hon. member can sum up, maybe he might get it through his head that he could tell the truth about the policies of the New Democratic Party.

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**PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY**

**Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

After studying the cost of over 3.5 million prescriptions, covering 16,000 drugs worth over \$1 billion, the Green Shield report clearly shows that Canadians have been misled and that drug prices have been rising in Canada at an annual rate of over 11 per cent.

My question to the minister is this. Why does the minister and his government continue to deny and obstruct the fact that they have completely failed in their responsibilities to protect Canadian consumers from unwarranted rises in the cost of prescription drugs?

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Blais (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Minister of State (Agriculture)):** Madam Speaker, our officials should not be accused of misleading consumers throughout Canada, because the figures—I have the Green Shield report which our officials analyzed—do show that the cost of patent and non-patent medicine increased in one province, Ontario, in a