

Oral Questions

studies that he should be prepared to release them to Canadians so they can make a judgment on whether his charges of fabrication are correct or not?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the reason the Hon. Member and I and others were elected is to act in the best interests of our constituents. We have a procedure for doing that. We have second reading and then committee study. In committee we look at all of the questions raised by the Hon. Member and others. We analyse them. It is an opportunity for us, as the people's representatives, to make a proper judgment and then divide in the House. I would like to proceed with that centuries old tradition. It is an honourable way to go. Why will the Hon. Member and his Party not co-operate?

REQUEST THAT MINISTER PROMISE TO RELEASE STUDIES

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for his lesson in parliamentary procedure.

Mr. Beatty: You needed it.

Mr. Langdon: However, is he prepared to prove the points he has made today by promising the committee and the House that these studies will be released? He knows, as I know—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member knows that the question he is posing has been asked several times. The Hon. Minister.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): You took the words right out of my mouth, Mr. Speaker. I do not know how many times I have to repeat the answer before Hon. Members will accept it. The answer to his question is the same answer that I have given to the same question the three, four or five times it has been asked by members of his Party.

* * *

NARCOTICS

GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-DRUG ABUSE STRATEGY

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton): Mr. Speaker, drug abuse in both schools and the workplace is a serious concern. In my constituency a group known as the Lambton Families in Action has been fighting this problem through a program of information and education since February, 1982. To this group, our Government's commitment in the Throne Speech to bring forward a national drug strategy was reason to celebrate.

Given the Government's commitment to the strategy of education and interception, can the Minister of Health inform the House and interested groups across Canada when further details and information on this program will be forthcoming?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member. I am sure most Members of the House would agree with him that the strategy announced in the Speech from the Throne has been welcomed by parents and others. The strategy has a number of components. The major one, which has to be stressed and which is not yet complete because of the consultations which have to take place, is that of education. Quite frankly, that is my emphasis. There are other components dealing with the justice system and others. They have their part to play. I hope we will be ready to make announcements concerning further developments, after those consultations, at the end of January or February of next year.

* * *

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NORTHERN ONTARIO—GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to my hon. friend, the Deputy Prime Minister. On several occasions in the recent past he has boasted in this House about the good things the Government has in store to help the faltering economy of northern Ontario. We welcome good things from any source. Is the Minister willing and able today to tell the House exactly what is in the recovery package for northern Ontario which was alluded to following a Progressive Conservative caucus meeting in Sudbury just a few weeks ago?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to do that. First, this Government has recognized the difficulties in northern Ontario, the uniqueness of the region, and there are at least seven possible initiatives at which we are looking. They are to establish a federal economic development committee for northern Ontario, to transfer some federal agencies and services related to northern Ontario, to dedicate program moneys to northern Ontario, to establish a stabilization program for forestry and mining, to invest in northern Ontario schemes, to give special tax treatment to equity investors, to strengthen marketing assistance companies in the region and to encourage development of a strategic partnership.

● (1530)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: More, more!

Mr. Penner: We will have to absorb that, Mr. Speaker. I had the impression that those were directions rather than details.