

LABOUR RELATIONS

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION DISPUTE— CONCILIATION COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications. A commissioner appointed by the Department of Labour issued a report in early October on the labour dispute between the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and its employees who are members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees. The proposed settlement was acceptable to the union and workers are prepared to ensure labour peace on that basis. What steps is the Government willing to take to make sure that CBC implements the terms of the conciliation commissioner's report?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, seven different issues have been negotiated with regard to the disputes that have been under way. Two bargaining unions, NABET and CUPE, are in an official position to strike. However, I understand that negotiations and discussions are still going on, and I am hopeful there will be some resolution from these negotiations without having to move into a strike position.

AMOUNT OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR CBC

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Would the Minister not agree that the federal Government's cut-backs in the CBC are, in part, the cause for the problems that are being faced by the workers?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications): No, Mr. Speaker, I would not agree with that. I would be glad though to elaborate on the amount of funding that has gone to the CBC over the last number of years. In fact there has been an increase of \$71 million in actual dollars over the last three years.

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PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

PRICE OF DRUGS—EFFECT OF AMENDING LEGISLATION

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Some provincial Premiers said that the price of drugs will increase in Canada. The Minister of Health for Ontario last night said that your proposals regarding the patent changes on pharmaceutical products—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Gauthier: —will increase the price of all existing drugs in Ontario and promote untold increases in the prices for new drugs. Will the Minister not admit that he is jeopardizing the

Oral Questions

health care of Canadians, and that in the end the consumer will have to pay more for these drugs?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Of course not, Mr. Speaker. What I will admit is that this will restore some patent protection to researchers in Canada. It will result in 3,000 new high-tech jobs, the kinds of jobs the Member's Party keeps calling for. It will put us at least in the game of the exciting new biotechnologies that are coming along. It will mean that Canada will be a contributor to finding cures for diseases that still menace mankind.

[Translation]

Mr. Gauthier: After cutting right and left in Canada's research resources, university research and research budgets, it takes a lot of nerve to say that here in the House!

REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COSTS AND PRICES FOR CONSUMERS

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Minister could explain, in the language of his choice, the difference between the cost to the consumer and the consumer price. Doesn't it mean the same thing? It certainly feels the same to the consumer, who will have to pay in any case.

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, if the Liberal Party will co-operate with us and bring this legislation to committee, we can have the kinds of discussion the Member apparently wants. We can then look at all these factors. I am sure that when the Member does that he will see that any costs involved are more than compensated by the enormous benefits that will come to Canada as a result of this legislation.

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PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

CONTROL OF TEXTBOOK PUBLISHING COMPANY

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, the Government caved in on the sale of Prentice-Hall book publishers to Gulf and Western on condition that Gulf would sell control to Canadians of Ginn Company, a major publisher of elementary and high school children's textbooks. My question is for the Minister of Communications. Is the Minister aware that in its recent memorandum of sale, the American conglomerate, Gulf and Western, states that it now has absolutely no intention of giving up control over the operating decisions of the board of directors of Ginn Company? What has happened to the Tory policy of recovering Canadian control in this lucrative segment of the book publishing industry?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member knows that the book