

Oral Questions

new legislation that would create a new market for our distributors?

[English]

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, after years of neglect by our predecessors in this area the Minister of Communications and the Government have taken an initiative to assist Canadian film distributors and the Canadian film industry.

• (1420)

The exact contents of that policy will be announced by the Minister of Communications this afternoon in Toronto, I believe, where a healthy representation of the Canadian film industry resides. Once that has been done, we will welcome questions on interpretation of the details of the policy.

The Minister is creating a separate market for Canadian film distribution. That is the principle of the steps she will be announcing.

REPORTED VISIT TO CANNES FILM FESTIVAL BY FORMER
TELEFILM OFFICIAL

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, April 13 is the anniversary of the last day at Telefilm Canada of the Prime Minister's friend, Jean Sirois. We now learn that he too is travelling to the Cannes Film Festival at public expense. Will the Prime Minister tell Canadians why his friend, Jean Sirois, is going to Cannes after he was canned by Telefilm? Does he not think it is rather a disgrace that he is having another free treat from the public purse—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister.

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, if I can I would like to take notice of that question because I had not heard about this visit. I am not the Minister of Communications.

Mr. Gauthier: We know that.

Mr. Crosbie: She is my desk mate. I will certainly pass on the Member's question and provide her with an answer in due course.

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HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

FREON—REQUEST THAT PAM BE REMOVED FROM STORE
SHELVES

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. He

will know that yesterday Dr. Albert Liston, Assistant Deputy Health Minister, was quoted as saying that: "The manufacturer of Pam oil spray is already working on removing freon and the intent of our discussions is to see how quickly we can bring that to fruition".

In light of the fact that the Government has finally recognized the seriousness of this situation, does the Minister not think it prudent and wise for the Government of Canada to remove this product from Canadian shelves until such time as the manufacturer finds a suitable substitute for freon?

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, as Dr. Liston indicated yesterday, there will be discussions with the manufacturer in order to see how the reformulation can be accelerated. As a matter of fact, discussions on that particular subject are going on this afternoon.

Mr. Dingwall: I say respectfully to the Minister that this is a situation which requires immediate leadership by him and the Departments involved, not next week or the week after.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER BAN PRODUCT

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, the Minister is aware that in other jurisdictions, in the United States, freon is removed from that product. It is removed from hairspray and deodorants. We know that there are substitutes for freon. We want the Minister to put a ban on that product until such time as the manufacturer comes up with that substitute. Why is the Minister risking the health and the environment of Canadians by allowing this product to remain on the shelves for Canadian consumers?

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, as I have been indicating for a few days now, the terrible incidents that have occurred with respect to this product were a result of the misuse of the product. It is misuse of a product that has caused terrible injury and death which would not have occurred if the product had been used for its intended purpose. It has been abused.

It is very important that people know that this product should not be abused in the way it has. I will not go into the details that were reported in the papers.

Since these incidents I have acted responsibly and asked the Department of Health and Welfare to communicate with the manufacturers to get them to Ottawa in order to discuss the acceleration of the reformulation. Those discussions are going on this afternoon.