

Adjournment Debate

Mr. Rynard: They have already built within the last two years a facility costing around \$2 million.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. gentleman—

Mr. Rynard: Madam Speaker, I am sorry to have to make my point, but this situation was allowed to go on for two years without correction. This is something the people of Canada own. It is run by this parliament, by this government and by the people of Canada.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order, please. Order, please. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Miss Coline Campbell (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House further details with respect to the question of the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Rynard) concerning certain deficiencies in manufacturing conditions of Connaught Laboratories and the continued sale of this firm's products.

Regarding the action of Dr. Showalter, Chairman of the Advisory Board on Drug Manufacturing Facilities and Performance, I must explain that this board, which reports to the Minister of Supply and Services, is responsible for publishing a directory of firms in compliance with the Canadian government standard which is used as a purchasing specification. Officers of the Health Protection Branch of the Department of Health and Welfare work very closely with this board, but take independent action to ensure industry compliance with regulations involving manufacturing facilities and controls.

As the result of inspection in January, 1973, some deficiencies were discovered in requirements involving raw materials, packaging and product stability of potamine sulphate, epinephrine, oxytocin and heparin. These drugs are not controlled by licensing procedures but are, of course, subject to the over-all controls for quality under the Food and Drugs Act. These deficiencies did not constitute hazards to health and were not judged to be a breach of regulations. However, they were discussed with Connaught Laboratories during the inspection and confirmed in writing in line with the health protection branch policy to advise all manufacturers regarding areas of deficiency. The Advisory Board on Drug Manufacturing Facilities and Performance also questioned the firm on the observed discrepancies. Because of the overall acceptable rating of the firm, no further action was considered at that time.

During a subsequent inspection of Connaught in February 1974, two epinephrine products were examined and deficiencies were noted in raw material and finished product tests, quality control and stability. Although these discrepancies were discovered in the conditions under which these drugs were manufactured, no evidence was available to indicate that there was any lack of compliance with the established standards for the products themselves. Consequently, as with the products inspected in 1973, no action was considered necessary to remove these lots of epinephrine from sale as there was no indicated health hazard involved. These deficiencies were discussed

[The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin).]

with the firm during the inspection and subsequently confirmed in writing on April 2, 1974.

A further meeting was held with the firm in late April to discuss thoroughly all aspects of the inspection findings. At the same time the chairman of the Advisory Board on Drug Manufacturing Facilities and Performance requested a full explanation of this matter from Connaught Laboratories in accordance with responsibilities for listing firms in the directory. On May 28 Connaught Laboratories submitted details of steps taken which would eliminate the deficiencies in question and ensure compliance with requirements for manufacturing facilities and controls. These actions by the firm were considered as adequate remedial action.

In summary, therefore, in inspections conducted in early 1973 and 1974 some deficiencies were found in conditions of manufacture of certain Connaught products. I must emphasize that none of these deficiencies resulted in the production or sale of products which were considered to be a hazard to health, nor did the products themselves contravene legal standards. Adequate remedial action was undertaken by Connaught Laboratories to satisfy concerns of the Health Protection Branch.

● (2210)

NATIONAL DEFENCE—OVERHAUL OF BOEING 707'S BY
TRANSAIR—SUGGESTED CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYEES OF
CANADIAN AVIATION AND ELECTRONICS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Madam Speaker, on February 19 I directed two questions to the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Richardson) having to do with the decision of the government to award contracts on the overhaul of the Department of National Defence Boeing 707's in Winnipeg to Transair despite the clear promises by the minister and the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), in May and June of 1974, that the work would be given, and indeed that work would be expanded, at the Canadian Aviation Electronics operation in Winnipeg. I am sorry that the minister is not here because I will be quite critical of him in light of the promises which he and the Prime Minister made during the election campaign and which have been so obviously and clearly ignored.

In May 1974 the *Winnipeg Free Press* reported in a front page story as follows:

Air Canada will build a new maintenance hangar, valued at between \$12 million and \$15 million at Winnipeg International Airport... the Prime Minister announced Thursday.

The news story went on to say:

In calculating the total employment of 800, he said the government is taking into account the existing 360 men at CAE and about 125 Air Canada employees involved in minor maintenance checks at Winnipeg on aircraft passing through.

Prime Minister Trudeau said he sees no problem in accommodating any Air Canada technicians who want to move their families from Montreal back to Winnipeg. Many of the technicians moved to Montreal in 1969 rather than take work with CAE.

On June 14, 1974, the *Winnipeg Free Press* carried "A Letter from Jim Richardson about Air Canada and a Stronger Aerospace Industry in Winnipeg". In that letter the minister said:

In addition to the aircraft maintenance work that will be done by Air Canada personnel on Air Canada's planes in these buildings, space will