

more balanced policy so that we will have jobs in this important area of research and development in Canada rather than seeing it all exported to other countries.

● (1430)

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER ORDER WITHDRAWAL OF LEGISLATION

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, the sick, the elderly, mothers and fathers, no one in this country believes the Government when it says prices will not go up. Therefore, can the Deputy Prime Minister tell this House why the Prime Minister does not order the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs to withdraw the Bill and tell the Americans to go take a pill?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, in order that we might enlighten Hon. Members across the way the best thing would be to allow the Bill to proceed to second reading debate. Then they might be in a position to understand what the Bill contains. Most of those questions would then be answered.

COST TO PROVINCIAL TREASURIES

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs advised the House "that there is nothing in this legislation that will cause the rise in the price of a drug by one cent: not old drugs, not new drugs, not pipeline drugs, not by one cent." Would he now agree with what the previous Minister said on June 27 of this year, that "It is our estimate that the total cost to provincial treasuries resulting from the delay in the introduction of generic drugs will not exceed \$100 million by 1990. In order to ensure that those most in need bear no cost, the federal Government will provide transitional financial assistance to the provinces."

Mr. Blaikie: Why would they do that if they are not going up?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I repeat, for I do not know how many times, there is a difference between price and cost. The price of drugs will not go up, but because of this group of 41 generics which are caught by the changes between the old and the new Acts there might be some delay, between two months and five years depending on the drug, which might have the effect of, at the maximum, increasing the cost to provincial pharmacare plans, because of the delay in introduction, by perhaps \$60 million over the next four years. That is a far cry from the Hon. Member's statement that drug prices will go up.

STATEMENTS MADE ON DRUG PRICES

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, the Minister is more and more beginning to sound like the Minister of baffle-gab. Mr. Eastman says prices will go up.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): He does not.

Oral Questions

Mr. Young: The accounting firm of Coopers & Lybrand says drug prices will go up. The previous Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs said prices will go up.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): False.

Mr. Young: Everyone says prices will go up except this Minister. How can Canadians possibly believe that drug prices will not go up after all those respected Canadians say they will? Will the Minister not agree to table in the House the cost impact studies the Government has so all Canadians can look at them?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I wonder why the NDP will not allow this to go to committee so we can examine all aspects of it. Are they afraid of what the Canadian public might understand?

Mr. Broadbent: Give us the studies.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): They are afraid of debate.

Mr. Andre: Here we have a typical example of what is wrong. Having written out his questions in advance of Question Period—

Mr. Young: I was quoting from *Hansard*.

Mr. Andre:—when I quoted what Dr. Eastman said, that did not prevent the Hon. Member from standing up and claiming just the opposite. One wonders how loudly, shrilly, and often one has to quote things and state things before the Hon. Member will accept them. What is wrong with the Hon. Member?

EFFECT OF GENERIC DRUGS ON PRICES

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, I have been listening with some interest to this exchange and confusion. A moment ago I heard the Minister say that after 10 years the presence of generic drugs would drive the price of drugs down, that is, drugs not yet discovered. Surely a conclusion to be drawn from that is that with the presence of generic drugs the prices would be lower. How can the Minister say that the price of drugs will not be higher if generic drugs will drive the price lower?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): The Hon. Member is absolutely correct, I have not said that. What I have objected to are statements designed to frighten and which say prices will rise. Generic competition will indeed bring prices down. However, I would say it is a debatable point as to whether our amendments are going to delay by any significant amount the onset of generic competition, given our experience. Most importantly, what our legislation will do is generate thousands of jobs in research and development in Canada. I thought the Liberals and the NDP wanted to see more research and development in Canada.