

*Oral Questions***COMMUNICATIONS****POSSIBLE IMPACT OF AT & T STATEMENT ON SALES OF TELIDON SYSTEM IN UNITED STATES**

Mr. David Smith (Don Valley East): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Communications. Will the minister advise the House of the significance to Canada of yesterday's announcement by AT & T and its impact on jobs in Canada?

Hon. Francis Fox (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, this announcement by AT & T is indeed a major step forward for Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fox: Hon. members have undoubtedly read in the press the announcement to the effect that AT & T is adopting standards which are fully compatible with the Telidon system. This arose as a result of many hours and many days of intense consultation between Department of Communications experts and AT & T.

The second part of the announcement yesterday, which does not seem to have been noticed by the media, is that CBS—

An hon. Member: That is why you planted the question.

Mr. Fox:—and I am sure it will be of great interest to members of this House who are interested in the development of Canadian high technology and its sale to the United States—is that CBS has adopted standards for transmission which are fully compatible with the Telidon system. This means, Madam Speaker, that the American market will be open to Canadian manufacturers of high technology who, because of the development of Telidon within the Department of Communications, have a leading edge in competing with other manufacturers on the North American market.

* * *

HUMAN RIGHTS**TESTING OF CANDIDATES FOR ADMISSION TO LEGAL PROFESSION**

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice who will be aware of the fact that 15 Canadian law schools require candidates for admission to take the American law school admission test. May I ask the minister whether he feels it is appropriate that Canada's future lawyers should have to be thumbprinted in the process of taking this test and to be asked for their social insurance numbers, their family's financial status and their racial background, and that this information should be stored along with the test results in the United States? And if the minister does not feel it is appropriate, is he prepared to take action to block this from taking place in the future?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development): Madam Speaker, I am not aware of this problem but I will certainly look into the matter and report to the House as soon as I have an answer.

Mr. Beatty: I am amazed that the minister would not be aware of these facts. May I ask him, in view of the fact that these LSAT tests are American and the questions have a distinct American cultural bias and are therefore inappropriate for Canadian students, is he prepared to contact Canada's law schools to offer his assistance in the preparation of a standardized Canadian law school admission test?

Mr. Chrétien: I have nothing else to add, Madam Speaker.

* * *

INCOME TAX**REGULATIONS GOVERNING EXPENSES OF THE DISABLED AND THE HANDICAPPED**

Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue and arises from the plight of a polio victim in my riding who spent 36 sleepless hours in a sit-in to draw attention to an unfair tax law. As this is the International Year of the Disabled, and in view of recommendation 46 contained in the report of the Special Committee on the Disabled and the Handicapped, which recommends that a disability deduction replace the current flat rate deduction to allow an individual to deduct the full cost of goods and services directly attributable to a disability, would the minister please review the decision made by the Tax Appeal Board on May 14 with respect to a recent test case in which my constituent made an unsuccessful attempt to deduct expenses for the cost of a leg brace, shoes, and other expenses related to his disability?

Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, I have a great deal of sympathy, and indeed admiration for the gentleman in question, as I am sure we all do, and I am aware of the very excellent recommendations of that task force. This, however, is the judgment of an independent body, the Tax Review Board, and I am not at liberty to change that judgment any more than I am at liberty to change the law. The law appears to be quite specific. Even though I have sympathy for the gentleman, only Parliament can change the law in this regard.

REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT OF ACT

Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario): Madam Speaker, in view of that answer I will address my supplementary to the Minister of State for Finance in the absence of the Minister of Finance.

In light of the committee's recommendation, would the minister amend the Income Tax Act so that those people who are not confined to a bed or a wheelchair, but who are disabled, would be permitted to deduct expenses for those