

Oral Questions

● (1520)

Mr. Speaker: Has the Hon. Member a question?

Mr. Gagliano: Would the Minister not agree that the report he has is a matter of opinion and not exactly what was discussed between my source and his officials?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of National Revenue): No, Mr. Speaker, with respect, I would not agree. I am not attributing motives to my hon. friend any more than to suggest that on a matter this serious the full story ought to have been given. The information as given was incomplete in so far as any meaningful access to my friend's income tax form was concerned.

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PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

REQUEST THAT MINISTER TABLE COST IMPACT STUDIES

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. As he knows, the Hon. Member for Beaches has applied for the cost impact studies concerning the drug legislation under the Access to Information legislation. That was denied by ministerial discretion. In order to clear up this whole matter will the Minister assure the House today that he will table those cost impact studies in the House?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, they were denied because they are confidences of the Privy Council and I am unable to give out those studies as requested. However, I am able and more than willing to discuss all of those projections and cost estimates in committee as is intended with this kind of legislation. Why is the Hon. Member's Party not willing to go to committee to look at and analyse these questions if it is so confident in its position?

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, if the Minister is so sure that there is not going to be an increase in the price of drugs by one cent, I assume he would want those studies tabled in the House so the people of Canada can see them. They are being hidden for political reasons. The Minister called the other studies a fabrication without ever seeing them. We in this House and the people of Canada want to see those studies tabled.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Hamilton East.

CANADA EMPLOYMENT CENTRES

REPORTED REMOVAL OF FILES FROM KITCHENER OFFICE

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Employment and Immigration I will direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister. The Government has made claims about increased security. Therefore, can the Minister explain why there is a story today in the *Kitchener-Waterloo Record* which shows that this week an employee of the Canada Employment Centre in Kitchener lifted from that office microfiche files which covered virtually every Ontario worker who filed an unemployment insurance claim in recent years?

Mr. Crosbie: A microfiching expedition.

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, the only point this individual made is that he is not worthy of the trust placed in him by the people of Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Weiner: He has also betrayed his thousands of co-workers across Canada who handle Government records each day securely and confidentially.

Ms. Copps: First we had tuna fish, now we have microfiche.

Some Hon. Members: Oh!

SECURITY OF FILES

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, how can the Deputy Prime Minister slough this off when, over a year ago, the union located at this Centre held a meeting with the Hon. Member for Kitchener in which the specific issue of security of files was raised? That was a meeting held on September 5, 1985. Until this week those concerns about security have been ignored by the Government.

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, an investigation is ongoing. We have to rely on the integrity of our employees to safeguard sensitive information. I want to assure the House that every effort will be made to find the individual and do what is appropriate.

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PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

REQUEST THAT COST IMPACT STUDIES BE RELEASED

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs said that these cost studies are being kept from the House for Privy Council reasons. Surely the Minister would be prepared to recognize that it is precisely because of the importance of these