

*Oral Questions***HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES**

I would like to say to you, Sir, that this morning I received a communique from the National Association of Canadian Film and Video Distributors which says: "The National Association congratulates you on your initiatives in offering a comprehensive and effective strategy to stimulate and strengthen the Canadian film industry".

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss MacDonald: I realize, Mr. Speaker, that you are indicating that I should wind up, but the communique goes on to say, "Your proposal to introduce legislation to regulate the importation of film products into Canada is an important first step toward breaking the stranglehold of the foreign distributors in our domestic market". They say that this will establish Canada as a sovereign market for film distribution in Canada.

● (1200)

[*Translation*]

NEGOTIATION OF CULTURAL MATTERS—MINISTER'S POSITION

Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, after the good news, the Minister knows perfectly well that the film distribution industry in Canada is largely controlled by U.S. corporations.

Why won't the Minister admit that these pressures from the Canadian industry actually suit the U.S. industry perfectly, since it will always have access to the Canadian market?

Will the Minister admit that culture was part of the free trade negotiations with the United States?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I have some more letters today. There is one from Serge Lozique, president and director general of the *Festival des films du monde*. It says: "Madam Minister, the legislation you announced yesterday will be remembered as one of the milestones in our country's cultural history."

For the first time in the history of film, we will exist before the world as a country that is sovereign and distinct from the United States. All Canadians, whether they are politically involved or not, should rejoice in . . ."

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the Minister, but I don't think it is appropriate to read the whole letter.

[*English*]

A single question from the Hon. Member for Hamilton East.

PAM COOKING OIL—REQUEST FOR REMOVAL FROM SHELVES

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the stand-in for the Minister of National Health and Welfare and it deals with the very serious continued distribution of Pam across Canada.

Earlier this week we heard the Minister come to his senses when he said that the Department would move to take the product off the shelves, but he would not give us a date. This morning the president of the company that sells Pam said that there are five million cans sold in Canada every year and that it could take up to a year before they come up with their substitute product.

Given that a substitute is already available, being marketed in the Maritimes and being sold in the United States, and given that five million cans may be sold over the next year while the Government diddles on its policy, I ask the Minister why today he does not simply agree to pull this product from the shelves so that children and adolescents who want to misuse it will not be in a position to do so. If not, if there is another death, he will have to answer to the parents as to why the Ministry of National Health and Welfare was more interested in corporate support than in protecting the health of consumers.

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Acting Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned a few minutes ago, I am not afraid of standing up in the House. I should recommend to my hon. colleague that she lie low at the rate the knives are flying on the other side of the House.

With respect to this very important question, as I indicated all week, the tragedies that occurred occurred because of a misuse of the product which, if it had been used as intended, is safe for the consumer. That being said, there have been some talks with the manufacturer, as I have indicated, and I am informed that the manufacturer will not only reformulate the product but has been in the process of reformulating the product for a while, and it should be on the test market perhaps as early as next week.

Ms. Copps: It's already been on the test market.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, but in view of the time I think we will have to call a close to Question Period.