

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, January 26, 1987

The House met at 11 a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*Translation*]

PETITIONS

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty to present petitions on behalf of Canadians concerning a monopoly situation being created for drug companies engaged in research which will prevent competition by less expensive generic drugs, thus leading to an increase in the price of drugs for the Canadian consumer and severely restricting the ability of many Canadians to buy the drugs they need; and the amendments to the Patent Act that will directly affect all Canadian men and women not covered by public or private health insurance plans; and Government proposals that will further increase the high cost of provincial drug plans; and the fact that the proposed amendments to the Patent Act are another example of the Canadian Government's making concessions to the United States during the free trade talks, to the detriment of the average consumer.

Therefore your petitioners humbly pray that Parliament reject these proposals that will increase the price of drugs for Canadians.

[*English*]

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have other petitions dealing with another subject.

The petitioners humbly submit that whereas the Government of Canada has imposed a retaliatory tariff on imported books in the English language, which has limited the access of Canadians to literature and information; whereas the tariff has little negative effect upon the publishing industry of the United States, yet penalizes Canadian consumers, book publishers, sellers, distributors, and Canada's culture; and whereas rising book prices have placed a strain upon the book acquisition programs and policies of our nation's public and specialized libraries, the undersigned petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to rescind this tariff which threatens

irreparable harm to the Canadian book industry and compromises federal policy on cultural industries in respect of free trade.

These petitioners come from the Windsor area, from out west, and from the Toronto area.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I again have the honour to present a petition under the provisions of Standing Order 106. This petition is signed by people from Flin Flon, Manitoba; Flin Flon, Saskatchewan; and Creighton, Saskatchewan.

The petitioners humbly call upon the House of Commons to reject the proposals of the federal Government which will result in an increase in prescription drug prices for Canadians. In their petition the petitioners state that they believe this is yet another example of Canadian Government concessions to the United States, at the expense of the average Canadian, in the free trade negotiations. They state their belief that this will severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs and will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Carlo Rossi (Bourassa): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present petitions from Canadians living in Montreal, Ahuntsic and Montreal North who respectfully state:

That the monopoly position given drug companies engaging in research will prevent competition by less expensive generic drugs, thus leading to an increase in the price of drugs for Canadian consumers and severely restricting the ability of many people to purchase the drugs they need;

That the proposed amendments to the Patent Act will have a direct impact on Canadians who are not covered by public or private drug plans;

That the Government's proposals will further increase the high cost of provincial health insurance plans and that the proposed amendments to the Patent Act are another example of the Canadian Government's making concessions to the United States in the course of the free trade talks, to the detriment of the average consumer.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that Parliament reject the proposals that will increase the price of drugs for Canadians.