

Petitions

Your petitioners point out that employee pensions should continue to be fully indexed; that contributors to the superannuation fund should have the right to make decisions; and that realistic levels of interest should be credited to the account.

Wherefore, Mr. Speaker, your petitioners humbly pray:

That Parliament amend Bill C-33 to include the following provisions:

1. All retirement benefits must be fully protected against inflation;
2. Existing superannuation accounts should be combined into one fund, and the new formula proposed in Bill C-33, namely to credit interest payments to those accounts, should be applied to all contributions;
3. The joint Pension Management Board proposed in Bill C-33 must be given decision-making powers and a mandate to provide for full protection of all pension benefits against inflation.

[English]

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have seven petitions which I would like to table today from residents of Canada who would like to present their grievance.

They say that, whereas the proposed changes to the Patent Act will affect directly all Canadians who are not protected by private or government medicare programs; and whereas the Government's proposals will raise the already high cost of provincial health care programs; and whereas the monopoly granted to innovative pharmaceutical companies will prevent competition from generic companies, will result in an increase in drug prices, and will severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs; and whereas the proposed changes to the Patent Act are another example of the Canadian Government's concessions in the free trade negotiations with the United States at the expense of everyday Canadians, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have 18 petitions which I wish to table today. They are all on a topic of grave concern to Canadians in general, that is, the proposed amendments to the Patent Act.

Whereas the proposed changes to the Patent Act will affect directly all Canadians who are not protected by private or government medicare programs; and whereas the federal Government's proposal will raise the already high cost of provincial health care programs; and whereas the monopoly granted to innovative pharmaceutical companies will prevent competition from generic companies, will result in an increase of drug costs and prices, and will severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs; and whereas the proposed changes to the Patent Act are another example of the Canadian Government's concessions in the free trade negotiations with the United States at the expense of everyday Canadians, the petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the proposals with regard to Bill C-22 so that we can protect the elderly, the sick and the poor from high prescription drug costs.

• (1110)

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and duty to present a number of petitions. The first is from citizens of Elliot Lake, Ontario, in which they say that the proposed amendments to the Patent Act are measures that will unfairly hurt those Canadians whose health requires purchase of prescription drugs on an ongoing basis and that the proposed changes will result in higher cost to provincial government drug plans.

The undersigned, your petitioners, pray and call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

TRANSPORTATION—ECONOMIC REGULATORY REFORM

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, I have five petitions containing several hundred names. One would hope the Government would finally get the message. The petitioners are from Edmonton, Orleans, Westmount, Quebec; Brandon, Manitoba; Fruitvale, Castlegar, Creston and Nelson, British Columbia; and from people in Ottawa, Hamilton and Selkirk, Ontario.

All these petitioners say that in their opinion transportation is a natural monopoly without economic regulation and that economic regulatory reform in Bill C-18 will create unnecessary chaos in the transportation industry, leading to unacceptable reductions in safety standards as well as deterioration in the quality, type and frequency of service.

They petition the House to persuade the Government to withdraw Bill C-18 and retain public convenience and necessity as a fundamental factor in the development of public transportation policy, and to retain licensing in order to restrict market-place activity to a positive level, functioning in the best interest of the public as a whole.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition from a number of citizens from western Canada concerning the proposed changes to the Patent Act which will quite obviously affect all Canadians who are protected by private or government medicare programs. The changes are as a direct result of free trade negotiations and will grant continuing monopolies. This petition is in total conformity with the resolution recently passed by the Manitoba Legislature which also condemns the Patent Act on behalf of the people of Manitoba. I think this petition only further strengthens that argument.

CANADA POST—CONTINUED OPERATION OF TABUSINTAC POST OFFICE

Mr. W. R. Bud Jardine (Northumberland—Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present two petitions on behalf of constituents from the community of Tabusintac who humbly pray that their Post Office will remain open and the five-year contracts will continue to be awarded to contractors.