

S.O. 21

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

RESOLUTION OPPOSING AMENDMENT OF PATENT LAW

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I rise to put on record the views of an organization in Manitoba which represents most farmers belonging to commodity groups in that province. Keystone Agricultural Producers wrote a letter to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre) in which it was indicated that it had "unanimously adopted a resolution calling for our organization to vigorously oppose proposed amendments of the drug patents act, which would allow chemical manufacturing companies patent protection of 10 to 17 years on new pharmaceutical drugs".

They sent the letter not only because farmers as consumers would have to pay higher prices, but also because of the following:

—it is our belief that any measures which may be taken with respect to pharmaceutical drugs may have significant implications with respect to the production and pricing of pesticides.

Of course pesticides are important to farmers in food production. The Minister should withdraw the Bill, as was proposed by Keystone Agricultural Producers.

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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NORTHERN ONTARIO—SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, the Conservative Government recognizes the regional difficulties of northern Ontario. I am pleased to say that since 1984 northern Ontarians have received attention they failed to attract under the previous administration.

The initiatives the northern Ontario caucus and Cabinet are presently considering are indicative of the importance we place upon the region. They are not the reactive, short-term solutions of the past Liberal Government, or policies which only react to the boom and bust cycle of the northern economy. They are a responsible approach by the Government in its attempt to build upon the strengths of northern Ontario resource-based industries.

Our Government has given northern Ontario and its unique problems the recognition the region deserves. We will continue to work with the people to create a more stable future for northern Ontario.

● (1405)

[Translation]

FORESTRY

TRIBUTE TO MR. JEAN PERRON FOR HELP IN MAKING LA SARRE FORESTRY CAPITAL OF QUEBEC

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, next Saturday, December 6, the *Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue* will grant for the first time in its short history an honorary Ph.D. to Mr. Jean Perron, President of Normick Perron, in La Sarre. This happy initiative will express the gratitude of our community to a man and a family who have written an important page in the history of North Western Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, in my region of Abitibi—Témiscamingue, the name Perron evokes such things as building, entrepreneurship and success. The marvelous success of Normick Perron these last few years is the result of the determination, the work and the ingenuity of its administrators.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the people of my community in thanking Mr. Jean Perron for his involvement in our affairs and for his contribution in making La Sarre the forestry capital of Quebec.

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WOMEN

NEED FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY POLICY

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, a study carried out this fall by the federal Department of National Health and Welfare shows that, in the field of education, where women used to have the advantage over men, men have tended to close the gap and even to reverse the trend, while in the areas where men held the advantage, progress has been very slow.

On the other hand, the study shows that the gap between the percentages of men and women attending university has been substantially narrowed, but the study also shows that this is not really significant. Indeed, in the more economically profitable fields of education, the gap between men and women has widened. In other words, women are gaining in the fields of education deserted by men, but few women are making gains in non-traditional areas.

Mr. Speaker, a true policy of equal opportunities must promote the emancipation of women in all sectors and not confirm their confinement to structural ghettos.