

*Patent Act—Trade Marks Act*

C-102, even though it is important and even though we are going to support it, is only a very small step toward the measures that must be taken to protect the Canadian consumers and to bring down the price of drugs. I would urge that in these days of air travel, in which this government is taking its part as it should, the minister or ministers involved visit their opposite numbers in other countries, in this case the United States and perhaps Britain, for consultations as to ways and means of dealing with the situations created by such cartels. Obviously, such cartels are not within the control of any one country.

Also, I believe that there are countries which are farther along the road toward the control of drugs than is Canada. Of course, we have heard about Sweden. I hope that Sweden is not a dirty word in this house, although I have heard hon. members object to having Sweden mentioned. I hear suggestions from my confreres behind me that we had better not make it a dirty word. In Sweden, they have given notice that they intend putting the drug industry under national control because they do not think there is any other way of bringing down the price of drugs. I have been told by several people that Japan has been exploring ways and means of controlling the drug industry. I have no doubt that some members of our government, and I hope they would include the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and the Minister of Justice, will next year be visiting Expo in Japan. Perhaps they might make it their business to find out what is being done there to protect the consumers of drugs, because I believe that sooner or later we shall have to have international control of these cartels and of the drug industry. Perhaps this should be done first through O.E.C.D. and eventually through the World Health Organization of the United Nations. Such a course was suggested last fall at a meeting in Geneva by no less a person than Dr. Karl Evang, director general of health services in Norway. He suggested that the World Health Organization would be the most suitable organization through which the various countries could come to an agreement and find ways and means of dealing with international cartels. This is not a far fetched idea. The W.H.O. is already dealing with a number of matters relating to health and welfare and various other matters of concern to countries throughout the world. I do not think it is a moment too soon for the government to begin considering steps of this kind.

[Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway).]

• (9:30 p.m.)

**Mr. Basford:** I wonder whether the hon. lady would permit a question? Has she heard that Mr. David Henry, the director of research under the Combines Investigation Act is chairman of a working group under the O.E.C.D. and attended a meeting in Paris just before Christmas on the subject of international co-operation in the field of combines? Perhaps, too, the hon. lady noted the remarks of the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Gendron) when he drew attention on Friday last to the work the department is doing on an international basis to develop standards of safety and control.

**Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** I am delighted to hear it and I hope Mr. Henry's interests will include the drug industry as well. If the department is thinking along these lines I am more than ever convinced we should be taking action now of the kind I have indicated. We are faced by the prospect of a new and potentially dangerous organization.

Last summer a big new cartel was formed in Stockholm, the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Associations. This is an organization of drug manufacturers from all over the world. I am sure a regular covey of midwives were present, but among them was none other than our old friend Dr. William Wigle, president of the Pharmaceutical Association of Canada. This is the same Dr. Wigle, the friend of the people, who during the hearings of the committee on drugs put up such a relentless battle against each and every proposal designed to bring down the price of drugs to Canadian consumers. So if our friend Dr. Wigle is on the warpath organizing drug manufacturers all over the world to see that drug manufacturers are able to stand up in the face of possible intervention by governments, I am certainly pleased to hear indications that the Canadian government is making plans accordingly. It will be extremely difficult to cope with Dr. Wigle and his cohorts. They move fast, and today we know they need to move fast because the Canadian people are aroused over this question of high drug prices.

I was not much impressed during this debate by assertions on the part of hon. members to my right that the freer import of drugs would prove dangerous to the Canadian people, that it would mean the entry of drugs affected by dirt and foreign elements.