

Patent Act

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Yes, I think the Minister may be gullible. He has it in his pocket. He has those secret deals. We are going to have that research. It is another behind the curtain deal or wherever those deals are made.

Mr. McCain: You know, you have been there.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): We suspect that most of the deals for this legislation were made in Washington. They were certainly not made here in Ottawa, Toronto or Montreal. He says that the multinationals will put \$1.4 billion into research in Canada over the next 10 years. On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, it will cost Canadians an additional \$4.7 billion in higher costs over the same period. We have estimates that indicate that that will cost the country 9,000 jobs. In other words if we put the Minister's 3,000 jobs against the 9,000, we will have a net loss of 6,000 jobs. In any event, I have enjoyed watching the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs in the House. He has been handling hot coals, trying to bounce them around hoping he will not get burned. But from where did the pressure come, particularly the change in the legislation from June until—

Mr. Redway: Did you check it out with George Shultz?

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): As I said to my friend, I am a good friend of George Shultz, but he is not my boss as he is to the Members over there. Not only have we checked it, we have had the American multinationals on television saying that they knew the law before Canadian companies and Canadian consumers did.

Mr. Redway: What about Keith Davey?

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Keith Davey is an amateur compared to Dalton Camp.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): The Hon. Member ought to concentrate on his own particular purview and ambitions. See what you can do in that great caucus of yours on capital punishment. Stick to that and we will talk about some of the wider issues.

The Minister and the Government have capitulated completely to an American lobby. The American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association had an indication of what was in this Bill before Parliament, before Canadian industry and before the Canadian Consumers Association did. They knew because it was a priority. The chairman of that Association in the United States also sits on the U.S. advisory committee on free trade.

Mr. Yeutter, the U.S. trade representative, listed among his five priorities in these free trade negotiations a better deal for American pharmaceutical companies in Canada. We now know the reason the law was changed between June and today and why this legislation has the priority it does for the current Government. The elderly, the sick, the handicapped, those who

are not protected by plans and are vulnerable to any rise in prices have been sacrificed and made hostages to the free trade negotiations with the United States.

The story continues. It began on softwood lumber. There was a final offer of 10 per cent, then another final offer of 15 per cent. The American lumber coalition is now wanting 25 per cent. But our Government, weak-kneed, with no guts and no sense of principle yielded before it ever sat down with the United States on the National Energy Program. It diluted the Foreign Investment Review Act, it gave way on lumber, on publishing and it has now given away on drug prices.

As I say, the hostages to that negotiation with the United States are those who are least able to protect themselves, the aged, the sick, the handicapped, those in nursing homes and those needing medical care. When Uncle Sam says "jump", the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and his colleagues ask "how high and how far". There is no doubt in anybody's mind that the only reason the Government is prepared to sell out with this Bill is to keep the Americans happy and the Prime Minister's personal free trade agenda on track.

• (1420)

I do not know whether that close relationship between the President and the Prime Minister still obtains. I do not know whether the President's current travails in Washington will cause our Prime Minister to look for ways to put some distance between himself and that special relationship. Only time will tell. However, I suggest it is time for our Government to show some backbone in its negotiations with the U.S. on trade.

We on this side of the House feel one of the sacrifices made to keep those negotiations going was this legislation. When the Bill gets into committee we look forward to putting the kind of questions to the Minister that we have been putting to him in the House. We hope he is able to buttress the contentions he has been making in this House with some solid evidence.

As well, and the Minister may consider this irrelevant and a distraction, but I think it might be useful to get some of the tapes of the famous interviews he has had and have them played for the committee. We could have CBC representatives describe how those tapes were fabricated. We would like to get some solid evidence of the very close personal relationship which must now exist between Dr. Eastman and the Minister. We could ask Dr. Eastman how he intends to be the head of the Drug Prices Review Board when he is so solidly backed and reinforced by the Minister.

We do not have the numbers in this Chamber to back up our very strong views on this legislation. However, we do enjoy a free Parliament and unfettered public opinion. We can hardly wait for the Minister to have his opportunity to defend this legislation before the committee and before the forum of public opinion.

Mr. Andre: Point of order.