

confidence in Canadian researchers, in Canadian universities and in companies in Canada.

Senator Buckwold said:

I do not know how the government can be so naive as to really believe that suddenly Canada will become a major player in the research world.

It was Senator Buckwold who was naive in this case. He lacked confidence in Canada. He lacked confidence in our researchers, in our universities and in others.

We on this side of the House have no doubt that Canada will become a major player in the research world. What we require, however, is public policy that enables the science and technology community to get on with the job, and that is what this legislation is all about.

In my riding of Edmonton—Strathcona, Glaxo announced on October 6 a \$15 million investment to undertake basic research at the University of Alberta. This pledge is an addition to the quarter of a million dollars announced by Bristol-Meyers Squibb last July. I was a participant in that announcement. The Bristol-Meyers Squibb announcement of \$250,000 will be spent over five years and it is renewable for another five years. That is half a million dollars and it will be matched by other sources. These investments will add to the university's high reputation for medical science.

We have a lot to be proud of in Alberta about the University of Alberta because it is a leader in many areas, in medical and pharmaceutical research, and it will lead again with the types of investments the Patent Act will bring.

At both those announcements the presidents of each of those companies lauded the government for Bill C-22. They indicated how much more money they had spent than they had committed to. They talked about the successes of their new drugs, how these new drugs would help Canadians and people in the world fight disease and improve their health.

That is what we want. We want high value added jobs through which we can export high value added products like pharmaceuticals.

Albertans recognize the importance of these kinds of investments and they are well aware of the connection between intellectual property protection and R and D.

Government Orders

Dr. Michael Lee of Edmonton has written to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs to say:

I believe that the brand name pharmaceutical industry has stepped into the forefront as one of the primary sources of funding for Canadian medical research.

Dr. Lee adds:

It would seem logical that the maintenance of the patent protection will encourage continuation, and in fact, further investment by the pharmaceutical industry enhancing Canadian competitiveness in medical research.

Mr. Bachinsky of the University of Alberta, a former dean of pharmacy, has written to the minister and has said:

You have my support in the forthcoming GATT negotiations to extend patent protection and to bring Canada into the post-industrial world.

I hope all members of this House will see the wisdom behind the words of these Albertans. We cannot afford to lose time, as we did in the last Parliament, by squabbling over this legislation in order to score political points.

We will fine tune Bill C-91 in committee. I am a member of that committee and I will be open to suggestions of opposition members and people who come forward to us. I am looking forward to a healthy, good process. Many members of the consumer and corporate affairs committee will be on that legislative committee.

We have worked well in the past. We have produced some good reports. We worked well on the bankruptcy legislation and on the consumer and corporate affairs study into credit cards. We will continue our work in a non-partisan sense on Bill C-91.

I will welcome constructive suggestions, but let us move quickly to the committee stage and avoid repeating the costly delays of the Patent Act amendments in the last Parliament.

• (1650)

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton Southeast): Mr. Speaker, the member for Edmonton—Strathcona, which is a very good seat, has left out a few things.