

Patent Act—Trade Marks Act

that is, the foreign industry, be it American, European or otherwise.

—has complied with all the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act—

Needless to say that I am referring to the Canadian act. The medicine being offered us and which will enter into competition with the Canadian product must comply

—with all the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act—

—and even compare with the Canadian medicine patented in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, that is the reason why I believe that such an amendment is most acceptable to the house, since it has only an economic impact and, above all, is designed to protect the Canadian consumer as regards the quality of the product.

I take the liberty, at this stage, to quote a recommendation from the Boyd Committee, that bears out my contention. Besides, I drew my inspiration from it while preparing my motion, a very acceptable one, I believe.

Therefore, I shall quote the said recommendation from the Boyd Committee:

● (9:10 p.m.)

[English]

In Canada, the majority of these drugs are no longer subject to the "new drug" regulations and there is no obvious way that this essential evidence for therapeutic equivalency can be required. The Boyd Committee, therefore, recommended "... that when a new drug is manufactured and sold by a manufacturer other than the original manufacturer whose new drug submission has been processed in the usual way, the products of the second and subsequent manufacturer should each be considered as new drugs and should each be required to meet the regulations on new drugs." Without implementation of the recommendations of the Boyd and Hilliard Committees, Canadian physicians will lack the assurance that the "licensed" products will produce the desired clinical effects.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, there is no need to say more about such an important matter. I could quote throughout the evening and tomorrow the recommendations of the Boyd committee, the Harley committee and those of other committees which have dealt with the food and drugs question.

In my opinion, this is a basic point in the debate on Bill C-102. We must make sure—and the minister will agree—that the quality of imported products will be equivalent to that of the products already on the Canadian market.

[Mr. Fortin.]

I think that this is the least we can demand from foreign industry. It must assure us that the products it will put on the Canadian market will be of the highest quality or at least of equivalent quality to the ones already on the market.

Mr. Speaker, if we cannot prevent foreign competition from destroying Canadian pharmaceutical companies, since the minister is friendly with foreigners and the opponent of Canadians, let us ensure at least the quality and the safety of the product in order to protect the Canadian consumer.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I act as the spokesman of Canadians who cannot afford to buy expensive drug and who will have to be content with the first drug they find at the drugstore.

Mr. Speaker, we have to make sure that Canadian consumers will be protected and will be in a position to buy quality products.

For that purpose, the bill must clearly state that imported drugs have the same therapeutic properties as similar Canadian drugs.

Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to extend the debate unduly, because I would like to enable other members the opportunity to state their views. But I would really be pleased if the minister would look favourably upon this motion, not only to make sure that Canadians will be protected, but also that the products themselves will be of a good quality. In fact, the bill does not guarantee that imported products will have the same therapeutic properties as similar Canadian products.

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, before the question is put to the house, I would like to point out how serious is the matter which the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin) has just raised.

In my opinion, such questions should not be taken lightly, and I think the house would act in earnest by giving special consideration to the proposed amendment.

I would feel extremely disappointed if it were disposed of hastily as other previous amendments have been, and if the government, relying on its majority, simply decided not to accept it.

I believe the remarks of the hon. member about the Canadian drug industry and everything that is involved should prompt the house to give serious consideration to the possibility of passing this amendment.

[English]

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to add a few words on