

Historic Sites and Monuments Act

McLeod which culminated in the signing of the peace treaty along the Bow river in 1877, I think.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Horner: I hope the Historic Sites and Monuments Board will commemorate that occasion in an apt way. I have visited the site where the peace treaty was signed. The occasion ought to be commemorated, and I stress these words, because of the confusion our Indians find themselves in today. Nearly 100 years have passed since that event and those who judge us may say that the white man has failed to integrate the Indian into his society. I should not like it if others could judge us that harshly with justification.

I should like to think that, 100 years after the signing of the treaty, we are integrating our Canadian Indians into our society and treating them in every way as full fledged Canadian citizens. It would be apt if in some way the federal government and provincial government concerned could commemorate the signing of the treaty. Surely, it had significance for those concerned when it was signed. I hope it will have significance for us all in the future.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It is my duty to inform the house that if the minister speaks now he will close debate.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I have only a few things to say.

I thank my hon. friends for having kept generally to the matter before the house and which is rather simple, that is the number of members and their salaries.

I simply want to make—

[*English*]

I think we all agree that Nancy Greene made a great contribution to Canada, and we can be very proud of her. Certainly, I am happy to recognize her contribution. But because she is so young and so lively, we cannot consider her an historic site or monument. I think there are probably other ways to give her credit for what she did for Canada.

● (8:40 p.m.)

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

[Mr. Horner.]

PATENT ACT—TRADE MARKS ACTEXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO
GRANT LICENCES

The house resumed from Friday, January 17, consideration of the motion of Mr. Basford for the second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs of Bill C-102, to amend the Patent Act, the Trade Marks Act and the Food and Drugs Act.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I shall not speak at length on this bill. I hope it will pass very quickly and be sent to committee where it can be scrutinized and improvements brought to the attention of committee members and of the house.

I want to make it quite plain that this party is not opposed to second reading of the bill. In fact, we are quite anxious to have it approved under the new practice so that it will go to the committee and receive careful examination. I do not think there is any question about that. Some suggestions have been made to the contrary. I have read the speeches made to date in the house and I think some rather unfair suggestions have been made concerning the position taken by this party.

It is true that, in the legal phrase, we are approving it dubitate. We are dubious that the bill will have the results which are envisaged by the minister, but we hope it will. We feel that the question of drugs and drug prices is a subject of very substantial importance to the people of this country. Any suggestions to the contrary are improperly conceived. We think it could be a better bill. Hon. members on the government side have said it could be a better bill. Hon. members in the party to my left have said quite definitely it could be a better bill. This remains to be seen. Time will tell.

Personally, I will support any reasonable measure directed towards achieving better and cheaper drugs for the people of our country. However, I would equally oppose any measure which would result in placing before the people of the country drugs which are not likely to do the job which they should do. Anything which prevents people from being relieved of the indignities, the unhappiness and the misfortune of disease and illness should be removed, but it is just as wrong for people to be deceived and to have drugs given to them which do not achieve the effect which they should. It is of no value to provide cheaper drugs if those drugs do not do