

There is a very wide section of public opinion in Canada—consumers, producers of generic drugs who have been very beneficial to Canada for many years now, provincial Governments, and even municipal Governments in some cases—that is against the Bill which the Government insists on driving through. The Senate tried once to amend this Bill. It was turned back. It tried again with a much more modest set of amendments, and the Government wants to turn back most of those too.

● (1620)

It is clear that the Government stands very much alone in Canada without the support of the general population, without the support of the other Governments in Canada, without the support even of the Senate. It is well known that the Senate is never tainted by the presence of any New Democrat or former Member of the CCF.

Mr. Boudria: Oh, yes, it is.

Mr. Heap: They are all good solid members of the Liberal or Conservative Parties or Independents.

Mr. Duguay: Forsey was a CCFer all his life.

Mr. Heap: Senator Forsey was a CCF member but not all his life. He left the NDP a good while before he became a Senator.

Mr. Boudria: What about Hazen Argue?

Mr. Heap: The Government stands almost alone in Canada. It has a few allies, but they are not really in Canada. The Government has its allies in the multinational corporations which are producing the drugs, the expensive drugs, and they want to produce more expensive drugs. Local branches of multinational corporations are the nearest thing inside Canada, leaving out President Reagan, that the Government has for supporters on the Bill.

Since Bill C-22 has not been moving through Parliament at the speed wanted, the companies have gone on "strike". For people on the other side of this House the word strike is usually a dirty word. The Government is accustomed to opposing strikes whether it is strikes of railway workers, inside postal workers, letter carriers or grain handlers. It takes measures to try to get rid of unions by making changes in corporate ownership. Yet the biggest corporations have a long and, they might think, honourable, and others may think dishonourable, record of going on strike when it suits them.

At the beginning of World War II when Canada declared war on Germany because our allies in Europe were threatened, most notably Britain and France, we needed munitions, tanks, airplanes, guns et cetera, and the Government went to the large corporations asking them to manufacture the necessary tools of war, and a contract was offered. It said, "We will give you a cost plus 5 per cent contract. Just tell us how much you paid for materials, plant and labour, add 5 per cent and we will

sign the cheque". That was the deal. "You can put your brother-in-law on the payroll. He can sleep all through the shift and we will pay for it and add 5 per cent as well". The corporations went on strike. They would not accept that. They said "No, it has to be cost plus 10 per cent". Canada was at war. Canada needed the guns, the airplanes and so on. The Government signed for cost plus 10 per cent. That is when some of the corporations in Canada became as fat as they became then and have remained so since.

What we have now is the same sort of thing. We have a class system. If somebody working for wages says, "I won't work unless you give me more money, and all my friends in the union likewise won't work unless you give us more money or unless you improve our working conditions", whatever it is that is in dispute, "We won't work. We will withhold our labour unless you give us our demands", that is considered by Members on the government side to be not in the public interest. In fact, the Government is willing to put people in jail who do that. The Government has put people in jail—

An Hon. Member: Not us.

Mr. Heap: Your predecessors have, and they have done so in the provinces. Certainly their counterparts in Ontario put people in jail during the nurses' strike simply because they said, "We won't work".

Mr. Belsher: What about breaking the law?

Mr. Heap: But when corporations do that, they make sure they have friends on the government side of the House who write a law which makes them heroes for doing the very same thing as nurses or postal workers or others are made into criminals for. A strike is considered a noble thing when done by the rich and a bad thing when it is done by those who are not rich.

What we have here is a capital strike in which the company simply said, "We are not going to expand our production in Canada unless you give us this guarantee, this Bill, this licence to print money, by extending our patent rights into Canada for many more years".

Those are the kinds of friends which the Government has and those are the kinds of friends who rely on the Government. *The Financial Post* for October 26 had a story entitled "Drugmakers put plans on hold". It reads:

Multinational drugmakers in Canada have responded to the stalling of the Government's new patent law with one voice. Until the Bill goes through, the industry's new research and development plans are on the back burner.

That is a strike, just like the postal strike, the letter carriers' strike and the railway workers' strike. Those people went on strike when it was legal. The Government passed laws in some of those cases to make a legal strike illegal. The Government does not have the law to make this strike of the drug makers illegal. The Government has never done that in any other capital strike either. This article in *The Financial Post* quotes