

Motions

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a number of petitions to present, although not as many as yesterday. I have petitions signed by residents of the Province of Newfoundland who are opposed to the proposed amendments to the Patent Act. They believe this is another example of the Canadian Government's concessions to the free trade negotiations with the United States at the expense of everyday Canadians. They call upon Members of Parliament to reject Bill C-22.

I have another petition signed by Canadians from Kemptville, Ontario, who likewise are opposed to the provisions of Bill C-22 which they believe will unfairly raise the price of prescription drugs in this country affecting the poor, the elderly and the disabled.

I have another petition from residents of Victoria, British Columbia, and elsewhere in western Canada, who are also opposed to Bill C-22 because they believe that it will negatively affect Canadians, in particular the elderly, senior citizens and the poor.

I have another petition to present signed by residents of Ottawa who are opposed to Bill C-22. They too wish to call upon the Government to withdraw the Bill because of the negative effects it will have on Canadians, in particular senior citizens, the disabled and the elderly.

My second-to-last petition to be presented this morning is signed by residents of British Columbia who wish to call upon the Government to withdraw Bill C-22. They believe it affects negatively senior citizens and the disabled.

Finally, I have a petition to present signed by residents of the constituency of Cape Breton—East Richmond and such communities as Howie Centre, Coxheath, Henry Street, Whitney Pier, Marion Bridge, Heathview Drive, South Bentic Street in Sydney, Nova Scotia, and a number of other communities in my riding who state that the monopoly granted to innovative pharmaceutical companies will prevent competition from generic companies and will result in an increase of drug costs and prices and will severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs; and that the proposed changes to the Patent Act are another example of the Canadian Government's concession in the free trade negotiations with the United States at the expense of everyday Canadians.

The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I believe I have the honour to present the last petition today. It is from a number of residents of New Brunswick from the communities of Edmundston, St. Basile, Moncton and Francoeur. In this petition the petitioners express their concern with the Government's attempt to pass legislation, in particular Bill C-22,

which will increase the cost of prescription drugs. They also state—

[*Translation*]

That people whose health condition requires the continuous use of prescription drugs will be particularly hard hit by the proposed changes.

[*English*]

Pardon my French, Mr. Speaker. The petition is signed by a number of people from New Brunswick. I hope that the Government will listen to them.

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STRIKING

CONCURRENCE IN NINETEENTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, earlier this day I had the honour to present the nineteenth report of the Striking Committee. At that time I failed to ask for unanimous consent for concurrence in this report. I have now made arrangements with the House Leaders of the Opposition and have ascertained that there is unanimous consent. It is a simple change with respect to one person on the committee. Therefore I should like to move concurrence at this time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is there unanimous consent to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): As per agreement made earlier this day, the House will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS AND FEDERAL POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND HEALTH CONTRIBUTIONS ACT, 1977

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-44, an Act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, 1977, as reported (without amendment) from a legislative committee, and Motion No. 2 (Mr. Garneau, p. 5017).

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): When debate ended yesterday the Hon. Member for Kenora—Rainy River (Mr. Parry) had the floor. He still has the floor for one minute if he wishes to carry on.