

Petitions

has established good standards of refugee status determination, which procedures have broken down under expected strains. They also indicate that the standing committee of Parliament proposed a new procedure for refugee determination which is quicker and fairer than the one now in force. This proposal has support from all Parties, as well as the Canadian Council of Churches, the Canadian Bar Association, the Canadian Jewish Congress, and other groups.

The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to enact legislation which will embody the principles of fair and complete oral hearings of claimants before a refugee board independent of the Immigration Commission, universal access to such hearings for every claimant in Canada, and a fair chance to arrive in Canada to present this claim.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, the next petition has also been certified correct as to form and content pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 106. It is from a number of residents in the City of Toronto.

The petitioners state that the Government's proposals to change the Patent Act relating to prescription drugs will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers and will severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs.

They also state that the proposed measures will unfairly hurt Canadians whose health needs require the purchase of prescription drugs on an ongoing basis. As well they say that the proposals of the federal Government will result in higher costs for provincial government drug plans.

Therefore, the petitioners humbly call upon Parliament to reject proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106, I wish to present a number of petitions from a variety of Canadians across the country who are in opposition to Bill C-22.

They believe very strongly that with the passage of the Bill the price of prescription drugs, as you well know, Mr. Speaker, will rise dramatically. They believe that it will affect very negatively the senior citizens, the disabled, and the poor of the country.

I have another petition to present. It is from individuals in the Province of Quebec as well as individuals in British Columbia, in particular the Vancouver area. They are opposed to Bill C-22 and pray that the Government would withdraw the Bill because they believe it will affect very negatively the cost of prescription drugs.

I have another petition to present. It is also signed by residents of the Province of Quebec, particularly the Pointe Claire area. They are also opposed to Bill C-22.

They indicate that the monopoly granted to innovative pharmaceutical companies will prevent competition from generic companies and will result in an increase in drug costs and prices. They also indicate that it will severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs. They call upon the Government to reject the proposals contained in Bill C-22.

I have another petition to present. Once again it is signed by residents of the Province of Quebec, in particular Pointe Claire. I also have another petition which is signed by residents of the City of Toronto, a city which is known to some members of the Chamber.

As well I have another petition which is signed by individuals from the City of Vancouver, North Vancouver, and Chilliwack, British Columbia. These petitioners call upon the Government to withdraw Bill C-22, the amendments to the Patent Act. They believe that it will negatively affect the cost of prescription drugs in the country, thereby affecting senior citizens, the poor, and the disabled.

OPPOSITION TO CANADA POST CORPORATE PLAN

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106 I have another petition to present. It indicates that the plan of Canada Post to adopt supermailbox service creates two classes of Canadian citizens in urban and rural regions. It also indicates that the closure of rural post offices will eliminate federal presence in numerous communities and will impede the effectiveness of postal service which is vital in rural areas.

● (1220)

The petitioners also say that the increase in postal rates, particularly for second-class mail, will imperil the distribution of numerous magazines, periodicals and regional newspapers as well as religious publications. The undersigned petitioners call upon Parliament to reject the corporate plan proposed by Canada Post Corporation, and to instruct the corporation to proceed with mail delivery to all Canadian taxpayers without discrimination.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have several other petitions to present and I will try to summarize them as briefly as I can because I want to accommodate you and other Hon. Members who wish to rise on petitions.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All the Hon. Member has to do is summarize the prayer, if it is a petition on Bill C-22 or a petition on the post office.

Mr. Dingwall: I have a petition here signed by residents of Belleville, Ontario, and I am sure Hon. Members know where that is.

Mr. Rodriguez: Where?