

Patent Act

million in Canada alone. I have a whole list of protein-based pharmaceutical products produced organically, including herpes vaccine, malaria vaccine, AIDS vaccine, hepatitis B vaccine and insulin. This Canadian company will be destroyed by the Government and this legislation.

If the Government had taken Dr. Eastman's recommendations and provided a four-year exclusive law, this kind of Canadian company would have been able to survive. Not only is this legislation extremely harmful to Canadians in that we are going to have to pay tens of millions of dollars over the next 10 years in higher drug prices, but we are going to see small Canadian companies wiped out. One of the estimates of the number of jobs which will be lost is of the order of 6,000 net. There will be 3,000 jobs created and 9,000 lost, which is 90,000 man-years.

I certainly hope the Government in committee, after hearing the wishes of citizens, especially those of the million of Canadians who are not covered by drug plans, will back down and amend this legislation and not give it all away to the American multinationals, because Canadians should come first and I hope they will with this Government.

Mr. A. H. Harry Brightwell (Perth): Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to enter into this debate today. During my business life, which I share with my hon. colleague, the Hon. Member for Algoma (Mr. Foster), I have had the pleasure of using dozens of drugs in treating animals and I have experienced more recently than my hon. friend the great changes and advantages which have occurred in the drug field. I have great respect for the manufacturing companies which bring in the drugs. I am delighted that we are now taking a step toward protecting the work these companies do.

We have heard good debate today and it is a pleasure to be at this stage of the legislation. It is unfortunate that Hon. Members opposite have used all sorts of tactics to try to delay debate. Out of the 16 hours we have been involved with this legislation we have only debated for about nine hours.

Mr. Waddell: You should have been here before when the Tories were in opposition.

Mr. Brightwell: The Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) came in here with 60 petitions in his hand, abusing that privilege and talking far too much for the worth of those petitions. The Hon. Member for Beaches (Mr. Young) misconstrued my motives. I brought in a petition from some of my constituents who had been receiving information which was not totally right and so they do not understand the situation. I did my duty and turned it in to the House. Not so Hon. Members opposite. They collect stacks of petitions and bring them in at an opportune time just to delay the business of the House. What a shame that is.

Mr. Benjamin: I have some more.

Mr. Brightwell: We heard the Hon. Member for Windsor—Walkerville (Mr. McCurdy) reading into the record selected

headlines. What a fine memory the man has, except that he forgets the other headline. A headline in the *Toronto Sun* on December 3 reads: "Feds Right To Stop Legalized Drug Piracy". In the *Gazette* on December 3, the headline read: "Drug Bill Foes Mislead Seniors, Specialists Say". I have other headlines: "Don't Back Down From Drug Change Law" and "Researchers Say New Patent Drug Laws Will Help Canada Get Better Medicines".

The reason I rise today is that I have great concern for the health of Canadians and I wish to see this Bill pushed ahead so that Canadians can have those drugs. I wonder whom I am helping.

Mr. Waddell: You are helping your American friends.

Mr. Brightwell: In all probability I am helping the people sitting opposite. I am helping everyone in the House. I am helping all Canadians who are going to get sick in the future and will otherwise be deprived of drugs which will not come on to our market because of our present law.

What do our changes do to the law? We say there will be 10 years' protection, but drugs must go through a long stage of proof before release into the Canadian market. They are presented to the Canadian Government and they receive an order of compliance. Thereafter they have to be proven in a period of up to three years. So, virtually from the stage that the drug is protected, it may take three years to reach the market. Then, there is a period of four years in which that drug would have the market to itself. But at the end of the three years of preparation for introduction to market and the four years on the market, if a Canadian company chooses to make the chemical here in Canada, it can copy the material.

● (1620)

I believe there has been a program of misinformation going on across the country. I wish to speak a bit about the type of misinformation which is occurring. My constituents are reading that generic companies will go out of business. We know that this is not true because every generic drug that is on the market right now will persist, and persist at the same price. Members of the Opposition say that the prices will increase. We know that 50 per cent of the drugs produced by generic companies are drugs that have lost their total protection, that they have gone beyond the 17 years. Tetracycline, a drug I have used for some 25 years, is one of these, contained in over 50 per cent of the generic companies' drugs. We know that the generic companies copy only those drugs that are special, those drugs which sell a great deal, those drugs which are perhaps easier to make, I am not sure. Since 1979, out of all the drugs introduced to this market only one drug has been copied.

Who could say that through the laws that we have now we are withholding from the market many copies that would come in the future? What about the number of drugs that are copied? We know that in the Canadian market only 7 per cent of the drugs have copies. We know that that figure comprises 20 per cent of the total sales volume; but the other 93 per cent