

Petitions

not, of course, say what that item was. The employee asked for further detailed information. The caller provided the information. At 11.01 the employee accessed the computer and confirmed that the information provided by the caller was correct.

The employee then asked the caller to provide even further information about my colleague's return. Again the caller responded with the precise correct information. At that time the employee provided public information to the caller based on questions about the return. The caller terminated the conversation by informing our employee, without her having asked for it, of further tax information pertaining to my colleague.

In the two calls three pieces of information, either volunteered or otherwise, were requested and confirmed by the callers. Let me point out for the benefit of the House that, it is clear that no one in the Department can access confidential information without leaving a record for audit purposes. I think this information ought to be very reassuring to Canadians.

I have always had the greatest respect for my colleague. He is a good accountant. He knows that these safeguards are in place. As grievous and unfortunate as it is that this information may be on the record, it is clear that there are safeguards built into the system. Canadians need not have the impression that simply by calling the income tax office and providing a SIN number access to and information about that return can easily be obtained. That is my point.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair will, of course, reserve on this matter and make a ruling at a later date.

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CHILD CARE

PRESENTATION OF FIRST REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Shirley Martin (Lincoln): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the first report of the Special Committee on Child Care in both official languages. If the House gives its consent, I intend to move concurrence on this report later this day.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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PETITIONS

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 106. I have a petition which has been certified to be correct as to form by the Clerk of Petitions and signed on October 16, 1986. This

petition calls on the federal Government to change its mind with regard to the Patent Act. It points out that the proposed measures will unfairly hurt those Canadians whose health requires the purchase of prescription drugs on a continuing basis. It is from residents of the riding of Thunder Bay—Atikokan and the neighbouring riding of Thunder Bay—Nipigon.

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present a petition signed by a number of residents of Canada. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 106, this petition has been found to be in order by the Clerk of Petitions. It was signed accordingly on November 7. The gist of the petition is that the signatories believe that the Government's proposed legislation to change the Patent Act will have the effect of increasing drug prices for Canadian consumers and will severely restrict the ability of the average Canadian to buy the necessary drugs. Therefore, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject those proposals to raise the drug prices and to reject the law which would have that effect.

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, in compliance with Section 106 this petition was certified to be correct as to form on November 7 of this year. It is from residents of the Lestock and Leross areas of my riding. They point out that the proposed changes to the Patent Act would increase drug prices and unfairly hurt Canadians whose health requires the purchase of prescription drugs. They indicate that the proposal would result in higher costs to provincial Government drug plans and is another example of Canadian Government concessions to the United States in the free trade negotiations at the expense of average Canadians. They therefore call upon this House to reject these proposals which will increase drug prices for Canadians.

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by a number of persons from Thompson, Manitoba. They state that the federal Government's proposal to change the Patent Act in relation to prescription drugs will increase drug prices. In view of the refusal of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre) to table crucial Government cost studies in this House with respect to these concerns, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis):

That this House do now adjourn.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair finds the motion to be in order. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.