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Sparrow	(Antigonish-	van Roggen—44.
Stewart	Guysborough)	
(Prince Albert-	Thériault	
Duck Lake)		

ABSTENTIONS

THE HONOURABLE SENATORS

Nil

● (1310)

Hon. M. Lorne Bonnell: Honourable senators, I should now like to speak to the main motion, which is already on the floor. I just want to say a few words before the debate closes to tell honourable senators that this bill, Bill C-22, is a most historic bill for Canada. It is a bill that, in the minds of most Canadians, only has to do with drugs for our people. But let me tell senators that this bill will also raise the price of drugs for the veterinarians and the farmers in this country. Agricultural costs will go up as well.

Let me also tell senators that there is another aspect to this bill with which we should be concerned. As we travel from the east to the west of this land, we find that our farmers are in difficulty. We find that some of these multinational companies have a 17-year patent on the pesticides, chemicals, fertilizers and other things that are in use on our farms, in our forests and in the agriculture industry in general. This increases the farm costs of this country tremendously. If we are trying to help our farmers today, something should be done to control the monopolies on pesticides and chemicals that are held by these multinational companies.

It is all right to talk about controls for our sick—that is good, and we are doing something about it. We are trying here, as those senators who are really concerned about them know, to help the aged, the sick, the infirm, and the poor. Some people are not concerned, though most of us are. We saw that a moment ago.

I did not want senators to go home today thinking that there is no other great need for senators to be concerned about the Patent Act. Our entire forestry, agricultural and fisheries industries are concerned because of the chemicals they need to fight diseases. Canada is now going into fish farming, and our agricultural sector, of course, is also very important. These questions are not addressed in this bill but in the Patent Act itself, which we are discussing as a whole.

I hope that those on the government side will take direction from what I am telling them, and that they will bring it to their cabinet colleagues so they can do something to help our farmers in this country through the Patent Act. I hope that they will bring in amendments to the Patent Act to assist in that regard. When they pass Bill C-22, I ask them not to forget that they are hurting not only the sick, the infirm, the aged, the crippled, and the poor, and provincial governments,

but that they are also hurting the agriculture and fisheries industries because of the cost of drugs and chemicals.

Honourable senators, we hear a lot about promised jobs—3,000 jobs have been promised. I am not saying that these multinationals would not do that—I have faith. I have faith in everybody. But let me say this: If Bill C-22 is passed, we are told that \$2.5 billion will be taken from our economy in Canada over the next ten years—it will go to the multinationals, 85 per cent to those in America and 15 per cent to those in Europe. If Canada loses \$2.5 billion from its economy, we will be losing 9,000 jobs. Perhaps those will not be lost from the drug industry—they could be lost in the farming sector, the fishery sector, grocery stores or some place else. But if our economy loses that amount, we will have lost 9,000 jobs. If we lose 9,000 jobs to gain 3,000, in my view that is a poor bargain.

Let me tell honourable senators one other thing and then I will be quiet. The committee did not find one soul in Canada who was not supporting research. We all agree that it is great. We need more research and development in Canada, whether it be in the drug business or in any business. In our recommendations we put an extra 10 per cent from the generic drug companies into research—that is done right in the amended legislation. In the original bill there is not five cents guaranteed to go into research—there is just a promise. But in our amended legislation 10 per cent of the sales will go into research. Further, we will save, under our amendments, \$100 million that the federal government will not have to pay out to the provincial governments. That amount could be put into research. If the government put that amount into grants to the Medical Research Council and other organizations, we could be putting \$200 million into research. In my view it is time research and development in this country was paid for by the rich, the corporations, the banks, and the working people, the people with money. For goodness sake, don't take it off the backs of the sick, the hospitalized, the infirm, and the aged by increasing drug prices. That is not the way to get your research. Yes, we want research, but let us take it off the backs of those who can afford it.

Honourable senators, think about the farmers, the fishermen, and the poor in the poorer regions of the country. Don't forget Prince Edward Island; don't forget New Brunswick; don't forget Newfoundland; don't forget Ontario; don't forget Manitoba; don't forget British Columbia and don't forget the Yukon, which came out and said to us, "Senators, here's a chance for you people to represent your regions."

An Hon. Senator: What about Quebec?

Senator Bonnell: Not too many times have we heard provinces come out directly to say that they are not being heard in the other place, that they are not being heard by the elected representatives. They have said, "You are representing the regions—do something for us." That does not happen too often. I tell honourable senators that Ontario alone said it will lose \$1 billion over the next ten years if Bill C-22 passes.