

will require assurance from the government that there will not be a lowering of standards and that every possible precaution will be taken with regard to inspection and testing procedures.

Mr. Basford: You have that assurance.

Mr. Yewchuk: Thank you very much. So far, the accent has been on the question of price. We have had very little information about the procedures which the government will have to take to expand and strengthen inspection facilities in order to give the assurance to medical practitioners and consumers that safety and performance standards will not be lowered.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, before beginning to discuss the position of our party with regard to this bill, I believe I ought to say a few words about the speech we have just heard from the hon. member speaking for the official opposition. If that speech was not written by representatives of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, it very well could have been. Those members of this house who were on the committee which sat over a period of more than two years looking into the question of drug prices and drug safety—a committee which heard representations from doctors, pharmacists, representatives of the pharmaceutical manufacturers and of the food and drug administration—will know that the department found as many infractions of the standards by the large, well known companies, as they found by those companies which sell what are commonly referred to as generic drugs. So, the suggestion which is implicit in the hon. member's speech that if we restrict the use of generic drugs and leave the field open to the other companies the public will not have to worry about safety is nonsense. This was proven during the long hearings which the committee held.

Mr. Yewchuk: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I believe the hon. member is accusing me of saying I want to restrict the sale of generic drugs. I did not make that statement.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I listened to what the hon. member said. I know that if members read *Hansard* tomorrow they will see that the whole tenor of what the hon. member was saying, namely that we have to worry about safety—

Patent Act—Trade Marks Act

Mr. Yewchuk: I have another point of order, Mr. Speaker. I feel I should reiterate that I support any measure which will reduce drug prices, but not at the cost of high standards in respect of drugs.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a point of order. Under the rule the hon. member may have an opportunity to take part in the debate again if he thinks he has been misquoted or misrepresented by the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow). I suggest the hon. member for Winnipeg North might be allowed to continue his speech at this time.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I am glad you ruled that that was not really a point of order because I suppose I could rise on a point of order to say if the hon. member—

Some hon. Members: Order.

• (9:20 p.m.)

Mr. Orlikow: I did not realize it is out of order to comment on statements made in this house by an hon. member. Certainly if the hon. member implies that he and his party are worried about the safety of drugs and they are the only ones worried in this regard, then obviously the rest of us are not worried. I reject that idea.

Let me say something about this bill. We in this party find ourselves in a somewhat strange position. We are going to support this bill and vote for it even though we do not believe—

An hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Mr. Orlikow: I see that the hon. member for Burnaby—where is it? What is his name? When I see him supporting me, I begin to think I am saying something wrong because I do not often agree with him. We are going to support this bill because it is a step in the right direction. I think I will be able to easily demonstrate that this bill, as well as the other measures the government has taken and proposes to take, will do very little to reduce the onerous price of prescription drugs which the Canadian public must pay.

This is a subject about which there can be little argument. The price Canadians have to pay for prescription drugs is much too high. Exorbitant and unconscionable prices are being charged by drug manufacturers in Canada and other countries. We have had a