

creates two classes of citizens; whereas the closure of rural post offices deprives citizens of a unique federal presence; and whereas higher rates, especially for second-class mail, compromise the distribution of many newspapers, weeklies, regional newspapers, magazines and religious publications.

Wherefor we humbly call upon Parliament to reject the Canada Post plan and enjoin the corporation to deliver the mail to all Canadian taxpayers, without any distinction.

[English]

These petitions, Mr. Speaker, come from St. Joseph, New Brunswick and from Shediac, New Brunswick. These petitions are also from Hull, Boucherville, and Chapeau.

• (1210)

I also draw to your attention, Mr. Speaker, the concern in Dorchester, New Brunswick in terms of increased postal rates, particularly on second-class mail, which will imperil the distribution of numerous magazines, periodicals, and regional newspapers, as well as religious publications.

The plan of Canada Post to adopt supermailbox service creates two classes of Canadian citizens in the urban and rural regions. It is their feeling that 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.

They call upon Parliament to reject the corporate plan proposed by Canada Post and to instruct the corporation to proceed with mail delivery to all Canadian taxpayers without discrimination.

[Translation]

#### OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

**Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont):** Mr. Speaker, to-day I would like to table some petitions from Winnipeg, Manitoba. These petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the proposals in Bill C-22 that will increase the price of drugs for Canadians.

**Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou):** Mr. Speaker, I have here several petitions from various parts of Canada, mainly from the Montreal area and also from the Province of British Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, in all these petitions, the undersigned respectfully declare that the monopoly granted to innovative pharmaceutical companies will prevent competition from generic companies and will result in an increase of drug costs and prices and will severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs; that the proposed changes to the Patent Act will affect directly all Canadians who are not protected by private or Government medicare programs; and that the proposed changes to the Patent Act are another example of the Canadian Government's concessions to the free trade negotiations with the United States, at the expense of the average Canadian.

#### Petitions

[English]

#### CLOSURE OF DIRECT MAIL UNIT AT THUNDER BAY

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, I have a number of petitions to table today, all of which have been duly certified under the provisions of Standing Order 106.

The first batch is signed by well over 300 people who live in the Thunder Bay—Nipigon and Thunder Bay—Atikokan ridings. They petition the House with regard to the closure of a direct mail unit of the Canada Employment Centre in Thunder Bay. They indicate in the petition that this decision will result in unemployment insurance clients from northwestern Ontario mailing their report cards directly to Belleville, Ontario rather than to Thunder Bay. Quite frankly this means that a number of them will not be receiving their cheques on time. In fact, if there are any problems, there will be many weeks of delay because of the administrative change. They call upon the Government to reject the decision.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE—POSSIBLE LOSS OF BENEFITS

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, the second petition, signed by over 100 residents of Thunder Bay, deals with the Forget report on unemployment insurance. They express concern about the transfer of benefits out of the regions. They oppose the annualization of the unemployment insurance program and call upon the Government to reject that suggestion and to enhance services available to them.

#### SUPPORT FOR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, the final petition I wish to table is signed by residents of the St. Catharines, Welland, and Niagara Falls areas of southern Ontario. It concerns the report of the standing committee of Parliament dealing with immigration.

It indicates that the committee has proposed a new procedure for refugee determination which is quicker and fairer than the one now in force.

It also points out that the report has the support of all Parties in the House, as well as the Canadian Council of Churches, the Canadian Bar Association, the Canadian Jewish Congress, and other groups and individuals. They ask that that approach be adopted by the Government of Canada.

**Mr. Neil Young (Beaches):** Mr. Speaker, I have several petitions on a number of subjects to present today. The first one I have the pleasure to present is duly certified correct as to form and content pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 106.

The petitioners are from such places as Toronto, Oakville, Etobicoke, North York, Woodbridge, and Brampton, Ontario. The petitioners state that troubles in many parts of the world are causing people to seek safety in Canada, and that Canada