

Is there fairness in withholding pay equity, an insidious form of blackmail, until an agreement is signed, making it a reward instead of a right?

We call on the government to end its heavy-handed approach, settle for our veterans who are owed this respect and help, and settle for our workers who deserve fair wages. Families and friends of those in veterans' hospitals are very concerned about getting service back to normal for they know the work that is done and believe in fair compensation that is rightfully deserved.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. J. W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, coincidentally with the celebration of Human Rights Day last weekend, I am proud to advise that the Atlantic Human Rights Centre was formally opened at St. Thomas University in my home riding of Fredericton—York—Sunbury.

The purpose of this centre is to promote and carry out the ideals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights among the citizens of the Atlantic region.

Its origin springs from a three-year pilot project in Atlantic Canada that revealed a compelling need for greater public knowledge and awareness about individual rights and freedoms as a foundation for peaceful and harmonious community life.

The Atlantic Human Rights Centre will mobilize our regional resources to advocate and stimulate the growth of social justice and equality for all citizens, thus encouraging the fight against racism, sexism and poverty.

As we have done in the past, the Atlantic region will continue to pursue leadership to eradicate cultural bigotry and racial discrimination.

On behalf of this House, I offer congratulations to St. Thomas University and all who have been involved in the establishment of this project.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ALLIANCE OF CANADA

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud the striking ships' crews for the patience, perse-

verance, courage and dignity which they have shown in light of overwhelming and intolerable conditions.

In spite of the fact that the striking ships' crews are among the lowest paid members of the Public Service, in spite of the fact that ships' crews have been without a contract for two years, and in spite of the fact that this government has done everything in its power to ignore, isolate and discriminate against the ships' crews, last weekend the crew of the *Alert* downed their picket signs and ventured out into one of the most violent storms in Atlantic history on a search and rescue mission off the coast of Newfoundland. The entire crew was in great danger. Three crew members were injured and had to be airlifted to Halifax.

This is just one example of the bravery and integrity which our ships' crews have continued to show.

Given everything that this government has done and is continuing to do to the ships' crews, we should consider ourselves fortunate to have a group of people so committed to their profession and their country. I am proud to pay tribute to the *Alert*.

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[Translation]

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, December marks the second anniversary of the passage of Bill C-22, an Act to amend the Patent Act. With the implementation of these changes, which came only after much debate from opposition members and especially the Senate, we see very clearly that the government was right. Indeed, more and more research is now being done in laboratories, clinics, hospitals and universities in Canada. This new policy saved Canadian consumers \$60 to \$80 million on the price of drugs last year alone. In 1988, 57 research and development companies invested \$164.5 million in Canada, including \$72 million in Quebec. Thanks to the changes to the Patent Act made by the Conservative Party, the pharmaceutical industry can look to the future with confidence and optimism.

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[English]

PENSIONS

Mr. Steve Butland (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I want to ensure all members know that the government