

## LOW-LEVEL FLIGHTS AT ARMED FORCES BASE IN GOOSE BAY

**Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina):** I also have a petition, found in order by the Clerk of Petitions, from a large number of people in Spadina who are concerned about the Government's proposal to increase low-level flight training out of Goose Bay, Labrador. They point out that this training already disrupts the life of native people. They are also of the opinion that it does not promote peace but makes war more likely. They ask Parliament to ensure that the Government stops that activity and not try to establish a NATO base there.

## OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGE TO PATENT ACT

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 106. It has been certified correct as to form and content. Like every other petition I have presented on this issue, it has not been verified by the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) and does not need to be verified by him even though on one occasion he sought that authority for himself. That authority was not granted him by the Chair or by the NDP caucus.

I might say just a word about the petition itself. The petitioners protest the federal Government's proposals to change the Patent Act concerning prescription drugs. These proposals will increase drug prices despite what the Minister for Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre) says. It would severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs. It would unfairly hurt those whose health needs require the purchase of prescription drugs on an ongoing basis and most certainly result in higher costs to provincial government drug plans. These changes are another example, unfortunately, of Canadian government concessions to the U.S. at the expense of average Canadians.

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition signed by some 50 to 60 people from the Province of Quebec. All these petitioners submit that the Canadian Government proposal to amend the Patents Act will cause hardship for Canadian men and women, because the legislation will increase the price of drugs in this country, a hardship for senior citizens, sick persons, etc. here in Canada.

They also submit, Mr. Speaker, that this Government legislation will cause hardship to the provinces because there will be cost increases where provincial health care programs are concerned.

They also submit that the proposed amendments are another example of concessions made by the federal Government to the United States with respect to the free trade negotiations.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, they suggest to us, Members of Parliament, and I quote: "For those reasons, they humbly pray that Parliament will reject those proposals that would increase the price of drugs for Canadian men and women."

*Petitions**[English]*

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions. One is from residents of Thompson, Manitoba, who believe that the Government's proposals to amend the Patent Act will result in higher costs to provincial drug plans. They humbly pray that Parliament will reject these proposals.

I have another petition from an organization calling itself Senior Power. I am assured that thousands more of these are on their way. Senior Power from Regina humbly prays that Parliament reject the Government's proposals to amend the Patent Act pertaining to drugs. They, too, believe it will mean increased costs for them and for a very good provincial drug plan in Saskatchewan.

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions, the first one concerning the Patents Act. More specifically, drug patents will increase the price of drugs to Canadian consumers. Also, the amendments will affect mainly people with health conditions requiring constant medication. Those proposals will mean cost increases for provincial health programs. Those proposals also are another example of concessions made by the Canadian Government to the United States with respect to the free trade negotiations.

For those reasons, your petitioners humbly pray that Parliament will reject those proposals that would increase the price of drugs for Canadian men and women.

• (1650)

*[English]*

The second petition says that the federal Government's proposal to change the Patent Act as it relates to prescription drugs will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers, that these changes will hurt Canadians who must rely on drug treatment on an ongoing basis, and that these changes will result in increased costs for provincial government drug programs. It states further that these increases are an example of the federal Government giving in to American interests in the free trade negotiations. The petitioners therefore call upon Parliament and the Government to withdraw the amendments which the Government is seeking to put before the House.

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, I, too, have petitions which have been certified by the Clerk to be correct as to form and content. It is my pleasure to present the first petition from residents of the Province of Manitoba, primarily of Winnipeg, who protest the federal Government's proposal to change the Patent Act as it relates to prescription drugs. They state that this will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers and severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs. They point out that this will unfairly hurt Canadians whose health needs require the purchase of prescription drugs on an ongoing basis. They also state that the proposals will produce higher costs for provincial government drug plans. They therefore call