

*Government Orders*

**Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on what the member for Laval was indicating; namely, no money, no candy.

I want to refresh the memory of this House and all Canadians who listen to the promises of candy when Canadians put their hands into their pockets and put out literally hundreds of millions of dollars with Bill C-22.

The drug companies, the patent drug companies, the multinationals, promised 3,000 high-skill, high-paying jobs in Canada if Bill C-22 would pass these Chambers.

So far, five years into that mandate—my hon. colleague opposite wants to hear this—there have been a grand total of 700 lay-offs in the industry; not job creation, lay-offs. If the truth is out and if the members opposite can read one of those multinationals, Eli Lilly in Scarborough, Ontario, which promises to spend another \$150 million on R and D even though the Canadian taxpayer is going to pick up 70 per cent of that in tax write-offs, has reported since Bill C-22 profits to its parent in the United States in excess of 100 per cent return on investment per annum over the course of the last five years.

Good Lord in heaven, what are we going to do? What more incentive do the multinationals need in order to put back some candy in the pockets of Canadians who have been footing the bill, one hundred per cent return on investment each of the last five years?

• (1230)

Now what is it asking for? It is asking for continued protection for an additional three years because it needs it. The government needs it desperately. I do not know why because it has not delivered on jobs. It has been getting tremendous return on its investment and if any corporation, be it multinational, local or parochial got one third of that kind of return on its investment it would think it was running a super duper profitable franchise.

No, we are not talking about that at all. We are talking about the biggest mind boggling rip-off Canadians have yet to see and are going to witness to their chagrin over the course of the next while if this bill actually passes this House. Lord forbid that happens. Many of us are going to turn very religious because we will have to invoke our faith in the divine in order to prevent this travesty from being visited upon Canadians. It is a travesty.

We have to take a look at the kinds of claims being made and the truth that is evidenced by action. We are talking about investment that is going to be made, but over the course of the last several years R and D spending, for example, in the United States has exceeded the R and D spending in Canada by 50 per cent.

With a return on investment of 100 per cent, why is there that kind of a discrepancy? Where are the jobs for our young chemists, our young bio-researchers? Where are our investments in the universities? Where are our investments in Canadian industry?

When compulsory licensing was put in place, as Canadians will well remember, it was to develop a critical mass in expertise at our universities, academic institutions, and bio-medical research facilities. It was designed so we could create the kind of financial base for our industries, our *naissant* industries in bio-medical research, in the drug research if you will, in order to allow Canadians to develop an industrial base and a pattern that would encourage industry that was going to accrue benefits to our medical research and medical system.

Colleagues on both sides of this House will have to admit compulsory licensing is an integral part of the Canadian medicare system. Without it, the system cannot function and in fact will not function. The member opposite is so fond of saying: "Ooh, I see these buildings go up and you know we are going to create jobs". Those jobs are going to disappear tomorrow.

The profits are being transferred back across the border. Canadian companies are investing every single penny of profits in this country because they pay taxes in this country. They do not transfer their taxes via expenses to some tax-free haven like Puerto Rico.

The integral component of our medicare system is the affordability of drugs. That affordability is being eroded by this legislation and just think how nefarious this legislation is.

My colleague from Dartmouth who has argued so valiantly on this bill has pointed out on more than one occasion the retroactivity component of this particular amendment that we are dealing with now. It is so bad that not only does it reach into our pockets to pay more, it is pulling our pants right off our bodies. It is saying it is not enough that it is going to get an additional three years. In fact, it is going to be much more than three years of patent protection.