

are taking the opportunity to express their opposition to changes in the Patent Act, which would result in higher drug prices. The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the proposals by the Government which will increase prescription drug costs for all Canadians.

[Translation]

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of tabling a petition in which it is stated that the changes the federal Government wishes to make in the Patent Act will increase the price of drugs and will have a particular impact on persons whose state of health requires the ongoing use of drugs, that those changes will increase the cost of all provincial health insurance programs and that they are typical examples of concessions made by the Canadian Government to the United States in the free trade talks.

Mr. Speaker, petitioners are asking Parliament to reject those proposals.

[English]

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I, too, have the honour to present a petition from a number of people in Winnipeg, St-Vital, and St. Boniface petitioning the Parliament on the matter of the generic drug Bill that is now before Parliament, pointing out that this will bear very unfairly on people of low income, including senior citizens, because it will inevitably raise the price of drugs. Therefore, your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject these proposals, which will increase prescription drug prices for all Canadians.

OPPOSITION TO CUT-BACKS TO RESEARCH

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): I also have a petition on a different matter. This is a petition from a number of people in the areas of Ottawa, Gloucester, and nearby. It concerns the National Research Council funding. The petitioners regret the recent cuts in the funding, and they point out that the cut-backs will do serious harm not only to Canadian research, but to Canadian industry. The funding for the space program does seem irrelevant as an excuse for the cuts in the NRC program.

REMOVAL OF MAILBOXES BY CANADA POST

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): I also have a petition from a number of residents of Spadina, and other parts of the City of Toronto, concerning the post office and its action this summer and fall in removing about a third of the mailboxes, the letter drop boxes in which people mail their letters in the city. They pointed out that this was done without the proper consultation to find out which boxes were heavily used. They request that Parliament ensure that Canada Post will put the mailboxes back, and will consult with the residents of the communities affected before Canada Post removes these boxes, or any other services in the future.

Order Paper Questions

LOW-LEVEL FLIGHTS AT ARMED FORCES BASE IN GOOSE BAY

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): I also have a petition from a number of people in Spadina, and in other parts of Toronto, concerning the Canadian Forces base at Goose Bay in Labrador, and the low-level flight training which is carried on there and over parts of Labrador and Quebec. The petitioners feel that this is not in keeping with a good Canadian defence policy, but in fact increases the risk of war, as well as disturbing the life of the people who live there. Therefore, they request Parliament to ensure that there will be an end to the low-level flight training at the Canadian Armed Forces base in Goose Bay, and an end to the negotiations with NATO for establishing a larger base there.

[Translation]

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGE TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Madam Speaker, I also have a petition. This petition has been certified correct in all respects pursuant to Standing Order 106 and it comes from small towns in Quebec, such as Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Trois-Rivières, Shawinigan, Saint-Étienne, and so on. This petition deals with the Patent Bill. The petitioners state that the proposed legislative changes will probably increase the price of drugs and that this is another instance of a Canadian concession in the free trade talks.

● (1120)

[English]

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Madam Speaker, it is my duty and honour to present a petition to the House of Commons on behalf of a number of western Canadians. They point out that the proposed changes to the Patent Act will result in prescription drug prices increasing significantly. They suggest that the increase may even be as much as \$650 million per year by 1995. They simply call upon Members of the House, particularly members of the Government, not to proceed with the legislation which would result in reducing competition in the Canadian drug industry and consequently in higher costs for prescription drugs to Canadian citizens.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 16 and 33.