

post offices were other mistakes. The mandate of the Canada Post Corporation should be entirely altered to make it clearer and more specific, its essential service being the delivery of mail to all Canadians without discrimination and such should be the Corporation's mandate. It should not take the first opportunity to try to make money and to give an unequal treatment to Canadians.

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[English]

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

PRICE OF DRUGS

Hon. Bob Layton (Lachine): Mr. Speaker, a few days ago opposition Members, looking for headlines, claimed that drug prices in Canada were rising at more than double the inflation rate. What a flagrant misrepresentation of the facts. I want to set the record straight.

An independent study by the Peat Marwick Consulting Group has demonstrated that drug prices have stayed well within the inflation rate since Bill C-22 established the Drug Prices Review Board in December, 1987. Eighty-three per cent of prices for prescription drugs did not increase at all during the last six months, and 96 per cent showed price increases of less than the average Consumer Price Index of 5 per cent.

The Opposition is slow to recognize the substantial benefits, including Canadian made products for medical and health care, thousands of high-tech, high quality jobs, and sizeable investments being made across the country, as a result of the passage of this Bill.

The good news announcements come every week. This may mean little to the Liberals and the New Democratic Party, but it sure matters to the people finding jobs in my riding of Lachine. Let us keep the record straight.

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HEALTH

BENZOYL PEROXIDE—DEPARTMENTAL STUDIES

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, a number of issues have drawn attention to the sluggishness of the Department of National Health and Welfare. Mussels and AIDS are two examples. We can now add Benzoyl Peroxide.

Benzoyl Peroxide is a chemical used in acne medication. For three years evidence has been mounting that it causes skin cancer. Two years ago a committee of specialists studying the issue felt more study was necessary before a final decision could be made, but it recommended a ban on over-the-counter sales of Benzoyl Peroxide in the interim. Nothing happened.

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I wrote to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) a year ago. His answer was: "The matter is under review. We will have a decision soon". I wrote to the Minister again in March of this year, after a year of silence and inaction and the accumulation of yet more evidence of danger. His answer was: "It needs more study. We will have an answer soon".

The Department of National Health and Welfare has done nothing to restrict over-the-counter sales of Benzoyl Peroxide products. Indeed, so complacent is the attitude that a senior toxicologist at the Department of National Health and Welfare resigned his position in protest over the Government's lack of action.

Where are the results of the surfeit of studies? Is the Government going to study the issue to death, the death of Canadians still in the dark about the dangers of Benzoyl Peroxide?

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THE DISABLED AND THE HANDICAPPED

NATIONAL ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey—Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, Canada's first National Access Awareness Week for disabled persons will be held May 29 to June 4. National Access Awareness Week is designed to encourage the active participation of communities, organizations, businesses and governments in improving the quality of life for disabled Canadians. It is being organized in co-operation with representatives of disabled persons, organizations, labour, business, government, and rehabilitation organizations.

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The goal is to develop "five star" communities, where five elements—housing, employment, transportation, recreation, and education—are available to everyone who lives there.

Communities across Canada are being asked to celebrate what has already been accomplished by persons with disabilities; assess the accessibility of services and facilities in their community; and plan practical improvements and set goals by which progress can be measured over several years.

This is an excellent program that merits the support of everyone.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

STORAGE OF DANGEROUS GOODS IN FORT ROUGE YARDS

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, last week in the CNR Fort Rouge yards a very major