the Minister. I can understand why his statement was so brief, he would rather cut bait than fish. I do not blame him because he cannot win an election with these Draconian proposals of Mr. Forget. We have the spectacle of Mr. Forget and his commissioners having been paid $750 a day plus expenses affecting 78 per cent of those who collect unemployment insurance, over 50 per cent of whom will get less than $100 if you put the annualization into effect.

Isn't it great that the rich on $750 a day can say to the unemployed in Atlantic Canada, in Quebec and in the West: "You are getting too much in unemployment insurance"? That $3 billion neatly removes from the Government any responsibility for unemployment. What it says to the people of the country, to the unemployed and to the regions is, "You are responsible for your own unemployment, not the Government". This completely absolves the Government of any responsibility for regional strategies to create employment.

Mr. Forget also recommends setting up a Crown corporation. The UIC will be a Crown corporation supported strictly by contributions from employer and employee. We have a model of a Crown corporation, namely, the Post Office. The ultimate irony, to rub salt into the wounds, is to say to the people who pay their contributions to the unemployment insurance fund that they have to pay $7 for the Forget Commission study. You should be ashamed of yourselves over there.

* * *

PRAIRIE GRAIN ADVANCE PAYMENTS ACT

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Hon. J. Robert Howie (York—Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the report of the legislative committee on Bill C-12, an Act to amend the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act, without amendment, in both official languages.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings*]

* * *

PETITIONS

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGE TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106, I wish to table a petition which has been certified correct as to form and content by the Clerk of Petitions. The petition is from residents of the Thunder Bay area who are asking that the Government of Canada abandon the current proposals for the Patent Act legislation. They want Parliament to reject these proposals which they believe will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

• (1640)

I have a second petition, certified correct as to form and content under Standing Order 106, from residents in the area of Churchill, Manitoba. They believe the Patent Act proposals put forward by the federal Government will result in higher costs to provincial government drug plans and consumers.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I, too, have a petition certified correct under Standing Order 106. It is signed by many residents of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. My seat-mate knows that area very well. It calls upon Parliament to reject the proposed changes to the Patent Act which they say will increase prices for Canadians and they will suffer as a result.

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present on behalf of the Pinetree Heritage Club Inc. of Christopher Lake, Saskatchewan, a petition they forwarded to me. They feel the proposal to change the Patent Act will end up increasing the price of drugs and call upon Parliament to reject these proposals. They go on to say that these increases will affect all of them in their age group.

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and duty to present a petition signed by several people from Vancouver and the Lower Mainland of British Columbia who object to the Government's attempt to tamper with the Patent Act. They say this will result in greatly increased prices for drugs for ordinary Canadians. They call upon Parliament to reject these proposals.

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and pleasure to introduce a petition which has been declared in order by the Clerk of Petitions. It is from a number of people in British Columbia, places like Nelson, Trail, Castlegar, Rossland, Salmo and so on. They are all concerned about the Government's proposed legislation which would in their opinion cause drug prices to be increased unnecessarily and cause great hardship to a number of Canadians, particularly senior citizens. They feel this is a concession to pressure from the multinationals based in the U.S. and they ask Parliament to reject the Government's proposals.

REMOVAL OF MAILBOXES BY CANADA POST

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): I have another petition from many people in Spadina and other parts of Toronto. It refers to the action taken by Canada Post in removing one-third of the mailboxes from the City of Toronto in recent weeks without consultation with the people concerned. They feel this will cause great inconvenience and even hardship, particularly for the elderly or young children who may be mailing letters. They ask Parliament to ensure that Canada Post replaces the mailboxes and does not take them away again without first consulting with the people concerned.