

*Patent Act—Trade Marks Act*

of certain policies of this government other industries have suffered.

The hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin), I believe on second reading, as reported at page 4408 of *Hansard* related what had happened to the footwear industry in Quebec. I raised a question in the house not long ago in connection with what is happening to the textile industry, and only this morning I received the progress report for March, 1969 of the Stratford Industrial Commission which points out that Cluett-Peabody of Canada has closed a factory in Stratford that employed 160 people. This is undoubtedly the result of imports, primarily from low-wage countries. This may happen with other industries, and it is what frightens me.

I feel there should be some reporting back to the House of Commons on the results of this bill. If we do not insist upon a report back to the house by the minister, then we are going to be governed by the civil service with no report made to the people. We are the people who must know what is happening as a result of this legislation. I will not say anything more, but I do feel we are entitled to know what happens as a result of legislation passed by this house.

● (2:30 p.m.)

**Mr. Basford:** Mr. Speaker, may I say a word about the amendment that has just been moved. The matter presents me with some difficulties. The bill before the house seeks to amend three acts of parliament and it would be very difficult, if the amendment were adopted, to bring in a report dealing with those three acts in the way that has been suggested. This bill seeks to amend the Patent Act. The Commissioner of Patents is already required under that act to report to parliament. The activities of the Trade Marks Office pursuant to the amendments to the Trade Marks Act and the activities of the Food and Drug Directorate pursuant to the amendments to the Food and Drugs Act will be reported on annually. My department reports on matters pertaining to the Trade Marks Office and my colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, reports on the activities of the Food and Drug Directorate. I therefore think that there are already adequate provisions within the law for reporting to parliament.

May I point out that under our new rules the estimates of each department, including the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, are examined in committee. Each year

[Mr. Monteith.]

the members of the appropriate standing committees of this house will be able to examine the activities of the Departments of Industry, Trade and Commerce, National Health and Welfare and Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and determine how those departments have been affected by the amendments now being brought in. There is already adequate provision for parliament to examine continuously the operation of these amendments. I do not think anything further is required.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is the house ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said amendment? All those in favour of the said amendment will please say yea.

**Some hon. Members:** Yea.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** All those opposed will please say nay.

**Some hon. Members:** Nay.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** In my opinion the nays have it. I declare the motion lost on division.

Amendment (Mr. Monteith) negatived.

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs)** moved:

That Bill C-102, an act to amend the Patent Act, the Trade Marks Act and the Food and Drugs Act, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs, be concurred in.

Motion (for concurrence) agreed to.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** When shall the bill be read the third time?

**An hon. Member:** By leave, now.

**Mr. Basford** moved the third reading of the bill.

He said: Mr. Speaker, in beginning the debate on third reading I plan to be brief. I should like again to remind the house that there are five points to the government program to reduce drug prices. I discussed these at length when I spoke on second reading and in the committee.

The first of these points was the removal of the sales tax on prescription drugs, the reduction of customs duty on these products from 20 per cent to 15 per cent and the narrowing