to fill this prescription as written (except in Alberta where substitution is allowed). In the hospital the doctor still has this role and in addition may play a large part as a member of the pharmacy committee in the purchase of drugs for hospital use. In addition to this, the rural practitioner whose practice is in a remote area, often serves as the pharmacist and is involved in the direct purchase and re-sale of drugs to his patient.

The members of the committee believe that this report would be helpful, in the first place, to the doctors, but they realize that very few doctors will actually read it. The doctor's time is scarce. Useful as part of the publicity material of drug firms may be, a fair amount of this information goes unnoticed and is therefore sheer waste.

Advertisements in periodicals are not read—

[*English*]

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I have been listening to the hon. member's speech for the past few minutes, and I do not see how the remarks he is making are relative to the amendment moved by the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I might make an observation at this point. I was following the remarks made by the hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Dumont) very closely and I must say that I have the same misgivings as the Parliamentary Secretary. The Standing Order relative to the proceedings of the house at the report stage provides that the debate should be strictly relevant to the amendment. I, therefore, ask the hon. member to restrict his remarks specifically to the amendment. Unless I misunderstood what he attempted to say—and I would not like to prejudge his remarks—I make this suggestion to him.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Dumont: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I was just coming to it.

What I meant a while ago is that if there is no control by means of a license granted after an examination, it will surely be difficult to make the price of products go down. I was precisely saying that the druggist has no alternative when a customer comes in with a prescription specifying a special type of drug.

If, through the amendment under consideration, we hope to be able to provide the necessary inspection, this should have been specified in the detailed way I just mentioned.

Besides, the Harley report recommends that section 41(3) of the Patent Act be amended to include applications for compulsory licenses to import drug products in all forms, subject to inspection of manufacturing facilities by the Food and Drug Directorate and provided such importation is in the public interest as may be determined by the Commissioner. And to this end, the committee recommends that the rules under the Patent Act be amended to permit the Commissioner to seek and receive outside independent expert advice in the determination of this question.

In its fifth report, the committee states that it studied thoroughly the question of granting licences or of registration, in order to determine whether this procedure should be applied.

The main concern of the committee is to provide the safest drugs to Canadians. It feels that licences or registration should be granted only if they result in increasing the safety of drugs.

Always according to the same committee, the Commissioner should only exert its discretionary powers, in the case of compulsory importation licences, when the interests of the public are at stake. "Public interest" means that the necessity to lower the price of the drug for consumers is weighted against the effect the importation licence could have on the Canadian manufacturer involved.

The distinction between the two types of compulsory licences should be maintained. "Unless he sees good reason to the contrary" carries only a discretionary power on the part of the Commissioner and, in that case, "public interest" may or may not be taken in consideration. When a compulsory importation licence is in question, "public interest" is the one and only consideration.

The committee considers that safety must be of paramount importance. The compulsory importation licence should not be granted unless the Food and Drug Directorate has inspected at leisure the manufacturing plants in the exporting country, and has applied the same regulations in force for the Canadian manufacturers of pharmaceuticals.

The committee remained fully conscious of the fact that his responsibilities extend beyond those of the Commissions, because its conclusions must be such that if one of its recommendations were adopted, appropriate balance should be maintained between industry and consumer, and the importance of a