

## OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition with several dozen names of Canadian citizens in various communities in western and eastern Canada. They protest the Government's decision to amend the Patent Act, which will have an adverse impact upon the price of drugs, especially for elderly Canadians or senior citizens and those covered by drug programs. It will also reduce the competition by generic companies and will thus raise unnecessarily the price of prescription drugs to Canadians.

It is also pointed out by these petitioners that these changes to the Patent Act are being done as a concession in the free trade negotiations. Of course the impact is negative upon all Canadians, whereas the concessions under free trade will not necessarily be of any benefit to Canadians.

I hope the Government will respond in a positive way to these petitioners who are asking for a change in these decisions by the Government.

**Mr. Neil Young (Beaches):** Mr. Speaker, I also have the pleasure to present a petition which has been certified correct as to form and content. It is signed by a number of residents of the City of Toronto who state that the federal Government's proposals to change the Patent Act relating to prescription drugs will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers and will severely restrict the ability of the average Canadian to buy necessary prescription drugs. The petitioners call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for all Canadians.

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to present a duly certified petition from a number of Canadians concerned about changes to the Patent Act. They see these changes resulting in higher drug prices both for individuals and for provincial drug plans. They also see them as another form of Canada granting concessions to the United States. They call upon Parliament to reject these proposed changes, which I sincerely hope Parliament will do.

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to table some of the thousands of signatures on petitions obtained in the City of Windsor in opposition to the Patent Act amendments which would drive up the prices of drugs for Canadians and impose a heavier burden upon taxpayers, primarily in the interests of the profit-making of multinational drug companies and in obedience to the direction of the Americans. With that, I table this petition, this petition, this petition, this petition, this petition, this petition, this petition, this petition, this petition, this petition, this petition, and that petition from the City of Windsor.

**An Hon. Member:** Can't you count?

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure, and indeed an honour, to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 106 concerning the changes the

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Government plans to make to the Patent Act. The petitioners indicate that the federal Government's proposals to change the Patent Act relating to prescription drugs will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers and will severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs. They call upon the Government to come to its senses and reject the proposals in their tracks before the legislation continues any further. Indeed, they go on to say that the proposed changes are simply another example of Canadian Government concessions to the United States, at the expense of average Canadians, in its attempt to continue free trade negotiations.

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence, I would like to submit two petitions. One is from residents of Bristol, Shawville, Norway, Portage du Fort, and neighbouring communities who wish to express their desire that the Government reconsider the measures it is proposing to take in changing the Patent Act which, as we all know, will result in increased costs of drugs, prescription medicine, and the like.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the other petition is signed by people from the town of Berthier and the riding of Bellechasse. They ask the Government of Canada to reconsider proposed amendments that would lead to an increase in the price of drugs, and they humbly pray that Parliament will reject this proposal that will increase the price of drugs for Canadian men and women.

[English]

## CANADA—U.S. AUTO PACT—SAFEGUARDS

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition consisting of another 250 names from my constituents in Essex—Windsor who are deeply concerned about indications from the Government that there are serious plans afoot to give up the safeguards in the Auto Pact. This would severely threaten the jobs of thousands of Essex County and Windsor workers, as well as the economic prosperity of the region. Therefore, these petitioners call upon the Government to reject completely any give-away of the safeguard provisions of the Auto Pact in the free trade talks with the United States.

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● (1140)

## STARRED QUESTION

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I ask you to call Starred Question No. 58.

## CN RAIL LINES

Question No. \*58—**Mr. St. Julien:**