

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, may I ask another question before the minister resumes his seat. During the course of my remarks I posed a question with regard to the sale of saltwater fish in the areas concerned. I asked the minister to advise the house whether it would be necessary for the shippers of saltwater fish to deal with the corporation, in view of the course contemplated in Part III, clause 21, which prohibits the buying and selling of fish without the corporation's approval? Will the saltwater fishing industry be required to sell its catch in the four provinces and one territory concerned through the corporation, or will it be allowed to deal directly with the wholesalers and chain stores as it has been doing to date?

Mr. Lang (Saskatoon-Humboldt): Fish, other than fish enumerated in the schedule, is not affected in any way by the operation of Part III because Part III in clause 20 defines "fish" as fish enumerated in the schedule. As a result, saltwater fish are in no way affected by that part.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Lang (Saskatoon-Humboldt), seconded by Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale) moves the second reading and reference to the standing committee on fisheries and forestry of Bill C-148 to regulate interprovincial—

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I have to remind hon. members that when the minister spoke he closed the debate and that we are not in committee of the whole. However, if the minister will allow the hon. member to ask a question I will allow the debate to continue.

Mr. Forrestall: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. My question will not be antagonistic nor will it provoke debate. I simply want to re-ask in much briefer form, the question asked by the hon. member for Lambton-Kent (Mr. McCutcheon). Would the minister advise the house why Lake Erie was not included?

Mr. Lang (Saskatoon-Humboldt): The question of which portion of any province, or whether any province at all, is included is a matter for the decision of the provincial authorities.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Ask Mr. Roberts.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question in which I feel the whole house will be interested. Can I

Patent Act—Trade Marks Act

ask in all seriousness why the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Davis) did not sponsor this legislation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the standing committee on fisheries and forestry.

PATENT ACT—TRADE MARKS ACT

EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO GRANT LICENCES

The house resumed, from Thursday, October 17, 1968, consideration of the motion of Mr. Basford for the second reading and reference to the standing committee on health, welfare and social affairs of Bill C-102, to amend the Patent Act, the Trade Marks Act and the Food and Drugs Act.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I had concluded my remarks when this bill was previously before the house.

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, on February 12, 1968, the former Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Turner) moved the second reading of Bill C-190 to amend the Patent Act and the Trade Marks Act. He explained that the purpose of the bill was to permit the importation of drugs from outside Canada, which would have the effect of reducing drug prices in Canada which he said were among the highest in the world.

• (9:10 p.m.)

He said this, as recorded at page 6623 of *Hansard*:

The government now has a program which it calculates will bring about a reduction in the price of drugs to the consumer.

The former minister explained the program in three steps. First, the removal of the sales tax from drugs and reduction of the customs duty from 20 per cent to 15 per cent. Second, the removal of the barriers to imported drugs provided under the Patent and Trade Marks Act, and, third, provision of information to the medical profession relating to drug prices.

The effect of this bill is to allow the commissioner of patents to grant licences permitting the importation of prescription drugs on a more flexible basis than that which applies