

*Patent Act—Trade Marks Act*

American Home Products, Frank W. Horner of Montreal by Carter-Wallace Incorporated, New York, and L. D. Craig of Toronto, Bell-Craig Pharmaceuticals, by the Denver Chemical Manufacturing Company of Stamford, Connecticut. It seems hardly valid for the drug industry to express the hope that the government and the Canadian people will worry about impure and inadequate drugs being brought in from foreign countries when at the same time it expresses no concern about the foreign take-over of Canadian drug companies.

It is rather strange that some foreign drug companies which were alleging that Canada could receive impure and unsafe drugs from those countries have seemingly banded together with the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association of Canada. The president of that association—a noted columnist said he is a much-travelled master of the graceful phrase—was in Stockholm last summer to meet with drug corporations of other countries. As a result we now have an international cartel, about which my colleague the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis) spoke last night.

One of the objectives of this international organization, as outlined by Dr. Wigle, is to:

—promote the development of ethical principles and practices throughout the pharmaceutical industry.

Perhaps it is pure coincidence, but among Ottawa lobbyists the term "unethical practices" usually means price-cutting. When this industry speaks of ethical practices it seems to me all one can say is that it shows the ethics of a tomcat in the way in which it has exploited the sick, the chronically ill and the injured in this country in respect of the prices of drugs. This organization should be the last to talk about ethics.

I suggest to the minister that this bill does not go nearly far enough. The minister and the government of Canada cannot by themselves deal with this international association. The minister and the government will only be able to deal with this international association in consort with the governments of other countries. A Canadian law by itself will not be sufficient to regulate, scrutinize and oversee this industry. It is my hope that the minister and his officials will maintain constant consultation with their equivalents in European countries and in Japan where the manufacture and export of drugs represents a fairly substantial operation.

[Mr. Benjamin.]

There is another factor that causes me to wonder just how enthusiastic and wholehearted the government is about drug prices. I point out that while the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, (Mr. Basford), who I am sure is very concerned about this matter and will be very diligent and enthusiastic, will be implementing a piece of legislation designed to reduce drug prices by a variety of mechanisms, another department will be helping the industry. In other words, while he is trying to restrict, control and supervise the drug industry, certainly in respect of costs, one of his colleagues will be aiding the industry.

• (3:00 p.m.)

With regard to the pharmaceutical industry development assistance program, commonly known as PIDA, I should like to quote the minister's words of last October 17 as recorded in *Hansard* at page 1511:

The pharmaceutical industry development assistance program, which is administered by the Department of Industry, is a direct loan program designed to strengthen and improve the efficiency of the sector of the pharmaceutical industry which manufactures and sells prescription drugs at lower prices. These companies, most of which are Canadian owned, engage in or are prepared to engage in, effective price competition against the international drug firms.

I do not very often find myself in agreement with Mr. Western, a columnist of some note, but in the *Winnipeg Free Press* of last April he commented at some length on this program and I find myself in agreement with most of what he said. If the government is so anxious to restrict, control and supervise the drug industry, that is, Canadian and international drug companies, I hope that in the implementing of the PIDA program the minister will persuade his colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) to use great discretion as to which companies qualify for loans from the Department of Industry.

I ask the minister to urge upon his colleague that all United States owned Canadian subsidiaries be excluded from this program. I say this because I notice that in the speech in *Hansard*, part of which I have just quoted, the minister qualified his remarks by saying that most of these companies were Canadian owned. I hope he will persuade his colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce to go farther and provide that only Canadian owned drug companies shall qualify for such assistance and that no assistance