

*Petitions*

proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians. I have—

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and privilege of presenting petitions signed by many residents of Selkirk and Winnipeg, Manitoba, and these petitioners are opposing the Government's proposal to change the Patent Act relating to prescription drugs on the grounds that the changes will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers and that they will unfairly hurt Canadians whose health needs require the purchase of prescription drugs, and further that these proposals will result in higher costs to provincial Governments. The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

● (1110)

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, my hon. colleague, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) had another petition to present on a different topic. The Hon. Member wished to have leave to introduce that petition at the same time as he was introducing his original petition.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members know that the practice is to present all petitions at one time. However, the Chair feels that it would be appropriate to recognize the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North again.

## OPPOSITION TO CUT-BACKS TO RESEARCH

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106, I have the honour to present a petition signed by residents of Gloucester, Ottawa, Russell, and others, in which they state that severe funding cuts to the National Research Council that have been imposed by the Government of Canada have caused disruption of scientific activity and threatened the economic future, as well as the health and safety of Canadian citizens. Therefore, they humbly pray and call upon Parliament to rescind the funding cut-backs to the National Research Council, including all consequent terminations and cut-backs in research activities, and to provide funding for the space program from sources other than the NRC budget.

## OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGE TO PATENT ACT

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, I have been called upon by petitioners from Unity, Saskatchewan to present a petition to Parliament. The petitioners request that the Government withdraw its legislation which extends the patent rights to 10 years for the multinationals. The petitioners are fearful of an erosion of the drug plans that exist in this country. The petitioners feel that the extra costs that the poor, the elderly, and the sick will bear will be to the benefit of the multinationals.

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I also have the honour under Standing Order 106 to present a petition which has been certified correct by the Clerk of Petitions.

In the petition people from the communities of Gillam, Thompson, and The Pas, Manitoba, have expressed their concern about the proposed measures that will unfairly hurt those Canadians whose health needs require the purchase of prescription drugs. In other words, they are complaining about the federal Government's attempt to change the Patent Act relating to prescription drugs. They feel that this will result in increased drug prices, especially for those who have a severely restricted ability to pay, and those who have a need to consume large amounts of prescription drugs. The undersigned petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject these proposals, which can only result in the increase of prescription drug prices for Canadians.

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to present a petition this morning from a number of people in the Yorkton—Melville riding from the town of Preeceville in the northern part of my riding. They, too, are concerned about the Government's proposition to change the Patent Act. They say in their petition that the proposal of the federal Government will increase the cost of prescription drugs to Canadian consumers, and severely restrict the ability of the average Canadian to buy the necessary pharmaceutical drugs in this country. They also go on to state that this will hurt the health needs of Canadians, and result in higher drug costs in the Saskatchewan drug plans and, therefore, hurt the revenues of the Saskatchewan Government, and so on. I do not have time, of course, to read the entire petition, but these people are very serious. They humbly pray that Parliament listen to their request, will do what they are saying, and withdraw this particular Bill that is before the House. As I said before, Mr. Speaker, these people are from the town of Preeceville in the riding of Yorkton—Melville.

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise and present a number of petitions pursuant to Standing Order 106 that have been certified correct by the Clerk of Petitions. The petitioners are concerned about the Conservative Government proposal to change the Patent Act relating to prescription drugs. It is their view that this will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers, and severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy the necessary prescription drugs. The petitioners are also concerned that the proposed changes are another example of Canadian Government concessions to the United States in relation to the free trade negotiations. They ask that the House of Commons reject the proposals brought in by the Government to change the Patent Act in relation to prescription drugs.

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, I, too, am honoured to have this opportunity to table in the House petitions from my own riding of Windsor, Ontario, and from Regina, Saskatchewan. These petitions represent a part of the mounting numbers of Canadians who