

● (1410)

[Translation]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

LAY-OFFS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Mr. Albert Girard (Restigouche): Mr. Speaker, at this time last year, I was advised by CN officials that we would be losing jobs in Campbellton, in my constituency. This year, CN is doing away with 20 more jobs in New Brunswick, 11 of which will directly involve people from Campbellton. CN is not even trying to save those jobs, and I rise in this House today to publicly condemn CN management for the incompetence and lack of concern shown in announcing right before Christmas this piece of bad news to the heads of those 20 families. Such an announcement will certainly shatter the holiday spirit and the joy that usually prevails in families at this time of the year.

I am outraged at that kind of action and I certainly hope that CN, as an arm's length corporation, will do something to end without delay such an unacceptable and unbearable situation.

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FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY

SITUATION IN CANADA

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, one year ago today the Government implemented its disastrous policy on the abolition of footwear import quotas.

Men's footwear imports have jumped by nearly 50 per cent since then. Footwear imports from Southeast Asia in particular have gone up from 63,000 to 213,000 pairs, 38 per cent more. Last year the Shoe Manufacturers' Association of Canada did predict that serious unemployment would be the result of Government abolition of footwear imports. The Government got away with it by claiming, and I quote: "This decision would lead to savings of half a billion dollars for Canadian consumers".

Canadians are now facing the truth. More than 1,000 jobs have disappeared in this sector, and one of the three industries in my riding, Alexandria Footwear, had to lay off two-thirds of its workers.

Four times since last July members of the Shoe Manufacturers' Association of Canada have been denied the privilege of a meeting with the Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney). She claims that she does not have time.

If the Government keeps on refusing to meet with these manufacturers, we will lose the remaining 20,000 jobs in this industry.

S.O. 21

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

BILL C-22—POSITION OF QUEBEC GOLDEN AGE FEDERATION

Mr. Gilbert Chartrand (Verdun—Saint-Paul): Recently, Mr. Speaker, the nearly 200,000 elderly people who belong to the *Fédération de l'âge d'or du Québec* voiced their unqualified support for Bill C-22 concerning drug patents. In their letter to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre), these citizens expressed their view that the adoption of Bill C-22 would greatly spur research on a number of still incurable diseases which strike the elderly in particular.

Elderly residents of my riding and of Quebec can no longer stand being manipulated. They did not believe the silly predictions of Opposition Members who, without ever referring to the purpose of the Bill, have been brandishing the spectre of higher drug prices. Older Canadians know that the new legislation will be a boon to drug research and that very soon they will benefit from discoveries to be made by this revitalized industry.

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[English]

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

OPPOSITION TO AMENDING PATENT LAW

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I want to share with Members of this House the views expressed by one of my constituents on a very important issue to be dealt with here. She says:

I am a senior citizen 76 years of age and I am taking life-giving medication every day (15 pills) totalling a cost of approximately \$400 per month. I am told I am to be on these drugs for the rest of my life. So needless to say my pension cheque goes almost entirely on keeping me alive on pills let alone food, which now becomes secondary.

Even with the Pharmacare program in effect, this would not alleviate the problem. It takes 6-8 weeks to process the rebate—

Time and time again the elderly and the struggling families with children or even young people who must take drugs are the ones that this federal Government has put the burden on. Maybe it's time to change the make-up of the federal Government quickly. I sincerely trust you voice my feelings along with the many others on this serious issue.

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TRADE

SUPPORT FOR CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I wish to comment on the recent agreement reached by our Government with the provinces which has successfully halted the flow of millions of dollars in taxes to the United States. As a Member from northern Ontario, I feel it is vital for the Canadian Government to correct the injustices of our established trade system and realistically approach the protectionist