

*S. O. 21*

I urge the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) to approve this modest request.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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### DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

#### RESTRICTED ACCESS TO BITTERS URGED

**Mr. Andrew Witer (Parkdale—High Park):** Mr. Speaker, last week-end two Parkdale men were found in an apartment littered with bitters, beer and wine bottles. Their deaths have served to highlight the dangers of bitters, a herb-based drink which contains an alcohol content as high as 43 per cent.

Bitters can be bought in corner stores at any hour of the day or night and has proven a potent temptation to those individuals whose craving for alcohol overcomes their good sense.

It poses a clear hazard to impaired adults and minors who do not have access to other forms of alcohol, and as such it should be removed from store shelves immediately before any further deaths occur from its abuse.

The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations for the Province of Ontario must pay heed to the many representations he has received from the police, the Addiction Research Foundation, the medical community, and concerned citizens of Parkdale regarding the dangers of this product.

I urge the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) to bring his influence to bear on the Ontario Government to ensure the removal of bitters from corner stores, and to restrict access to that drink through provincial liquor control boards.

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### INDIAN AFFAIRS

#### POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, this morning the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. McKnight) announced the capping of one of the most successful programs ever delivered by that Department.

The Post-secondary Education Assistance Program has been the single most important building block in improving the quality of life for Indian and Inuit people in Canada. By providing tuition and living allowances for native students, the

Government has assisted thousands of people in their education needs.

By capping this program, the Government deliberately closes the door to education for a sector of our society that needs it most. By the Minister's own admission, the participation rate of Indian students attending colleges and universities this year stands at 4 per cent. For the rest of the country, the figure exceeds 20 per cent.

The Government is willfully pointing eager but poor native students in the direction of the welfare rolls, as if the shamefully high unemployment rates on reserves are not bad enough already.

Even the Nielsen report, Mr. Speaker, found that this program was not only worth saving but worthy of improvement. The Nielsen report found that 90 per cent of those assisted by this program found employment upon graduation. Not only is this higher than the national average, but something very much needed.

The New Democratic Party calls upon the Government to restore the PSE Assistance Program in the interests of fairness and justice for aboriginal people in Canada.

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[*Translation*]

### PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

#### STUDY OF BILL C-22—SENATE'S ATTITUDE

**Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis):** Mr. Speaker, on May 6, 1987, this House adopted Bill C-22 which concerns the pharmaceutical industry. It cost the House \$22,173 to hear 100 witnesses. On May 12, 1987, the Liberal majority in the Senate decided to challenge the principle of this Bill and to hear 200 witnesses, although the most important of these have already been heard before the House committee. The Senate will be spending \$315,337 just to delay royal assent for Bill C-22.

And by the way, the Senate's itinerary has been planned, what a coincidence, along a route with the very best first-class hotels. The Senate is losing its credibility. The question of Senate reform will be discussed by the provinces and this Government between now and 1988, and meanwhile, the attitude of 43 Liberal senators who to all intents and purposes are defying this elected Government and thumbing their noses at taxpayers' money, this attitude will certainly be stimulating for certain proponents of Senate reform. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the Senate, that repository of knowledge and wisdom, is still living in the shadow of the Liberals.