

when we will have an opportunity to set forth our analysis of this measure in more detail and explain the meaning and purpose of each clause of the legislation. I am confident that when we give these explanations members of the committee will see the wisdom of this bill and share my hope that it will be passed and reported back to the house as soon as possible.

I was amused by some of the allegations which have come from members of the New Democratic party. They indicate they support this bill, and I thank them for their support, but they are certainly not loud in their praises. I was amused at the shadow-boxing of the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Gilbert). Members of the N.D.P. insisted throughout the campaign that this legislation would never be introduced. Well, if the legislation is as ineffective as they pretend it is, I do not know why they were so concerned about it during the election campaign. Naturally, there was no doubt in the mind of the government or in the mind of the Liberal party that it would be introduced. And it has been introduced. If it is as ineffective as the N.D.P. alleges, I am amused they should have made it a campaign issue.

Again, the other night the hon. member for Waterloo South (Mr. Saltzman) took full credit for the fact that it had been introduced. If it is so ineffective as he and his hon. friends have suggested, I am surprised he should take full credit for its re-introduction. But that is all by the way, and in the nature of a political argument; we can fight that issue on another occasion.

What I do want to emphasize—and some members of the N.D.P. do not appear to be aware of this—is that the present bill is only one part of the government's drug program. We as a government are determined to have a beneficial influence on the price of drugs in Canada. We regard drug prices in Canada as being unduly high, as stated by the Harley committee. We are determined to see they are reduced, and this bill is only part of the program which we have undertaken, and will undertake, to force prices down.

• (4:50 p.m.)

This particular bill is concerned with amending the Patent Act so as to increase competition within the drug industry and expose the pharmaceutical industry in Canada to the winds of international free competition. I hope it will be successful. All I can say is that it is a measure that has been recommended by three boards of inquiry—the Re-

Patent Act—Trade Marks Act

strictive Trade Practices Commission inquiry, the Hall royal commission and the Harley committee. I accept the recommendations of those three inquiries, and also their opinion that this type of amendment to the Patent Act will have some effect upon the cost of drugs in Canada. I hope it will; it is the belief of the government that it will. I am sure that we can convince the members of the health and welfare committee that the amendment will have this effect.

As I say, Mr. Speaker, I will be dealing with all the points raised by hon. members in this debate. May I thank them for their contributions. Some of the criticisms and suggestions can be dealt with in detail during the committee hearings, which I hope will start very shortly.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

FISHERIES IMPROVEMENTS LOANS ACT

AMENDMENT SUBSTITUTING RATE PRESCRIBED BY GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL

Hon. Jack Davis (for the Minister of Finance) moved the second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs of Bill C-151, to amend the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act.

He said: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could call it five o'clock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to standing order 40, to inform the house that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Gilbert)—Canadian Broadcasting Corporation; the hon. member for Calgary South (Mr. Woolliams)—Sports; the hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Dumont)—Finance.

It being five o'clock the house will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business, as listed on today's order paper, namely, public bills, private bills, notices of motions.