

Patent Act

when suggestions are made by those from from that place, the Government does not take them at their word. It refuses them and remains completely the lackey of the pharmaceutical manufacturers it so obviously has been.

If government Members had the kind of honour that one expects of Members of Parliament and if they acted on that kind of honour, they would accept these amendments and put them into the law. Nothing is lost to the Canadian people. If there is nothing to be sacrificed by Canadians, I guess there might be something to be lost by the pharmaceutical manufacturers who will do their darndest to make up for 18 years of facing competition from generic producers. They will do their share of milking the Canadian public now that they will have their chance after this Bill is passed.

Presumably, at some later hour today, we will see that bunch on the other side of the House pass this Bill in a form other than that which the Senate sent to us, and we will see this particular unseemly struggle go on. So be it. With every month that passes, we get closer to the next election. Bill C-22 will be one more reason to turf them all out.

Mr. Caccia: Mr. Speaker, listening to the fine speech of the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Nipigon (Mr. Epp), I would be inclined to ask him to give us the benefit of his thoughts on the retroactivity clause that is being proposed in this Bill.

Mr. Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, that a Bill take effect only after it has been passed expresses a principle that should govern the legislation of this country generally if not always. We have far too much done by ministerial edict.

Tax changes and Ways and Means Motions are passed many months down the road, sometimes so embarrassingly late that the people in Department of National Revenue have trouble getting tax forms reflecting changes ready for the people. Those are nice expressions of the ineffectiveness of the Government's ability to achieve its goals as fast as it wants to, although I should not throw that particular charge at this particular Conservative majority.

The proposition that a measure should receive full debate, be properly considered, be proclaimed and then go into effect at a future date is the correct proposition. To work instead in this way with an earlier date, no matter what happens to the Bill, is surely a perversion of the parliamentary system. It is to be thoroughly rejected as I have rejected it.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my hon. friend a question. He was a professor at a Canadian university before he came here as a Member of Parliament and I think he can answer this question. The Parliamentary Secretary who moved the motion extending the hours of debate made the claim that more than 100 countries with socialist Governments are among the poorest countries in the world.

I do not have a complete list in front of me, but it is my understanding that Norway, Sweden, Spain, Greece, Australia and New Zealand now have democratic socialist Governments.

Among the countries which have had, and will have again, democratic socialist Governments are Denmark, Holland, Belgium, France, West Germany, Portugal, and Great Britain. That is by no means a complete list.

• (1800)

If I understand correctly, those countries have among the highest standards of living in the world. They also have the most well-developed systems of social security, including old age pension, health care, and unemployment programs. Can the Hon. Member put on his history professor hat and comment on the ignorance or otherwise of the Parliamentary Secretary who made that charge?

Mr. Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for that question. It allows me at the outset to make one particular distinction which the Canadian people want made. It is people on the other side, who are so given to perversion of the truth, that want to gloss over a distinction. That distinction is between the democratic socialists of the European countries my good friend has referred to, and those other countries, often calling themselves socialists, which, in one form or another, live under a dictatorship. In those countries the attempt to achieve reform occurs with the greatest of difficulty. My good friend was talking about the democratic socialist countries, and it is the traditions of those countries in which we live.

Our rivals on the left, if you will, always know what we are doing when we say we are democratic socialists. We are drawing just that kind of distinction. We are in association, if you will, with our friends in the Scandinavian countries. We are in sympathy with our friends in the British Labour Party, the Socialist Party of France, and the Social Democratic Party of the Federal Republic of Germany. We are also in sympathy with those Mediterranean countries which have in the last 10 years or so, thank God, achieved freedom from right-wing military Governments—

Mr. McCurdy: Conservative Governments.

Mr. Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): —conservative Governments and worse, and now live again under democratic Governments. They have elected socialists, as in the case of Prime Minister Papandreou in Greece.

What we have among those countries, as we know, is not the world's poorest countries. We can choose only one example because it is the most senior of them all and looked to for that reason. That country is Sweden. It entered the 1930s facing many economic challenges, as so many countries did. We know what happened on Wall Street in 1929, and the ramifications that had for other economies of the western world. We have been reminded of that in the events of the last few days when one stock exchange after another crashed.

In Canada, the U.S. and other countries we saw reactionary legislation. We saw protectionist policies which dragged other countries down. We saw clashes between the rich and poor