

*Petitions*

**Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present a petition on behalf of a number of people from my constituency who live in the communities of Paddockwood, Northside and Christopher Lake. The petitioners express their concern at the Government's proposal to change the Patent Act and the effect that this will have on the cost of necessary prescription drugs. They call upon Parliament to reject any such proposal which would increase drug prices for Canadians.

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition which has been certified according to Standing Order 106—

**Mr. Nystrom:** Did you check with Maz?

**Mr. Keeper:** No, I have not submitted it to the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski). The petitioners point out that the Government has caved in to the lobbying of multinational corporations and that this proposal the Government is presenting will cost Canadian taxpayers and consumers. The petition calls upon the Government to withdraw the legislation.

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 106, it is my privilege and responsibility to present a duly certified petition from Canadians who are very concerned about changes to the Patent Act which will result in higher drug costs and will impose burdens both on individuals and on provincial drug plans. The petition calls upon the House of Commons to reject that legislation, and we intend to do just that.

**Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present a petition which, pursuant to Standing Order 106, was certified as being correct as to form and content on October 7, 1986, by Clairette Bourque, the Clerk of Petitions. I would be most happy to have the Government House Leader read this petition and consider it very carefully as soon as it has been filed with the Clerk according to the Standing Orders.

The substance of the petition is that these residents of Canada, mostly from Toronto, object very strongly to the Government's proposal to change the Patent Act so as to increase the price that most Canadian citizens will have to pay for drugs. They point out that it bears particularly upon the aged and infirm and upon any who need drugs on an ongoing basis and that the profits will go primarily to the United States and not to Canada. Therefore, they urge Parliament to reject these proposals that will impose hardships on all Canadians.

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106, I wish to table a petition which was certified on November 6, 1986, by the Clerk of Petitions. The petitioners raise their objection to the proposed Patent Act changes relating to prescription drugs, changes which they believe will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers. They point out that it will result in higher costs for provincial government drug plans throughout Canada and that

it is another example of Conservative Government concessions to the United States in the free trade negotiations at the expense of average Canadians. Therefore, the petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition which it is my pleasure to present. It is a petition which was certified pursuant to Standing Order 106 on November 6, 1986, by Clairette Bourque, and this petition too stresses very strongly the concern of residents of Manitoba about the proposed changes to the Patent Act which the Government is on record as intending to introduce. The petitioners feel that these measures will hurt Canadian health needs and they also have a very strong sense of resentment over their feeling that this is a concession to the United States with respect to our free trade negotiations. They call upon the Government to reject clearly this proposed course of action.

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, I too have the honour of tabling a petition that has been properly certified under Standing Order 106 by the Clerk of Petitions, Clairette Bourque. It has also been vetted by the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski), as you may have observed, Mr. Speaker.

The contents of this petition are similar to those tabled previously. My petition comes from the Windsor area. It is, of course, representative of the feelings of affected people all over the country. Of course, it protests the intention of the Government to introduce legislation to change the Patent Act in a fashion which will increase the costs of prescription drugs to many Canadians who need such products for their health. The petitioners protest as well the fact that this legislation is a product of American blackmail, and they demand that the Government withdraw any future consideration of tabling legislation as threatened—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Hon. Member is certainly making clear to all Members of the House that he has a petition and the thrust of that petition is apparent. The Hon. Member is now going beyond presenting the thrust of the petition and entering into a debate, which other Hon. Members seem to want to get into. I would ask that the Hon. Member conclude reading his petition.

• (1140)

**Mr. McCurdy:** Mr. Speaker, those who have signed this petition humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the proposals which will increase the prescription drug prices. If anybody has missed the point as illustrated by the behaviour of government Members on the submission of these petitions, then they will see that this is only the beginning of the fight.

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