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Globe and Mail so the Leader of the Liberal Party will know what kind of questions to put to the Government.

After two or three questions by the Leader of the Liberal Party, most of which are repetitive, his Liberal colleagues go on in the same vein.

Then come their kissing cousins. The Leader of the Socialist Party repeats more or less what the Liberal Party said, down to the same supplementaries, and so it goes down to the NDP.

Nitpicking questions, questions about personalities, questions about alleged scandals. Meanwhile, across Canada the deficit is going down, the unemployment rate is down, interest rates are dropping and inflation is under control.

If the Opposition woves are after spicy revelations, they will have to seek them elsewhere. We intend to continue governing this country.

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● (1415)

[English]

RIGHT HON. LESTER B. PEARSON

COMMISSIONING OF STATUE ON PARLIAMENT HILL

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the House of Commons we had the opportunity to witness a very rare and unanimous vote. Indeed, all Hon. Members joined in supporting my motion to erect a statue in honour of the late Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson, a former Prime Minister of Canada.

I want to take this occasion to congratulate all Hon. Members who participated in the debate yesterday, including the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme)—we were celebrating the anniversary of his first election to the House of Commons at the same time—the Minister of Public Works (Mr. McInnes), and all other Hon. Members on all sides of the House who contributed to making this debate one which was unanimous.

I hope the day will come very shortly when we can all join together outside on the lawn of Parliament Hill in order to unveil the statue in honour of the greatest Prime Minister this country has ever had, the Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson.

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INCOME TAX ACT

ATTEMPTED USE TO FINANCE BRITISH COLUMBIA SKYTRAIN PROJECT

Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, it is inappropriate when companies or individuals try to manipulate the tax system and take advantage of tax provisions that are clearly

intended for a different purpose. It is particularly reprehensible when other levels of government attempt to use the tax system so inappropriately. Thus it was with a great sense of disappointment that we learned last weekend that the Province of British Columbia had undertaken a public financing of their SkyTrain project, making unintended use of a special provision in the tax system and thereby striking at the very integrity of the tax system.

I was also amazed to learn that the Province of British Columbia had not followed normal procedures of consultation with the federal Finance Minister (Mr. Wilson) before proceeding. Certainly this leaves the impression of a provincial Government trying to pull a fast, one and demeans government in the eyes of the public. I applaud the Minister of Finance for his quick, decisive action in closing down this blatant misuse of the tax system.

Any similar schemes in the public or private sector must be dealt with severely if the public is to have confidence that our tax system is fair and is fairly applied. Provincial Governments, in particular, are partners with the federal Government in maintaining the integrity of the tax system and should govern themselves accordingly.

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PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON LEGISLATION AMENDING PATENT ACT

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House and all Canadians the important testimony of witnesses before the legislative committee on Bill C-22. While the Government may argue that this Bill is in the interests of all Canadians many of the witnesses stated the exact opposite. For instance, the Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens Organizations clearly stated in its brief:

Proposed changes to the Patent Act contained in Bill C-22 will reduce the availability of low-cost alternative generic drugs and that, without competition, brand-name costs are certain to rise;

Commitments made by multi-national firms for investment and job creation in Canada are unenforceable;

Canada will never achieve world-class research status in pharmaceuticals without a strong domestic industry, which this bill prevents;

The legislation can't effectively penalize brand-name manufacturers who fail to follow pricing guidelines;

Direct payment costs for drugs will rise—

I urge the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre) to withdraw this Bill forthwith.