

Bill C-22 is designed to ensure that we have more of that research, in order that there are more of those life-saving drugs available to citizens of Canada.

PRICE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. A typical response from the Minister is to abdicate his responsibility and to point the finger at other individuals.

This Minister will know that he has given an undertaking to the House on no less than eight occasions that the prices for prescription drugs would not rise beyond the inflation rate. He has also stated in the House that they would not rise by one cent.

Would the Minister explain that rationale to those Canadians and senior citizens TO whom I referred earlier who are having to pay two and a half times the price for prescription drugs?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have said before, and the Hon. Member will know when he has an opportunity to face up to it honestly, that there is nothing in Bill C-22 that caused the price of a drug to rise. The Hon. Member knows that is true.

The Hon. Member also knows that the price of drugs is determined in the Province of Ontario. It is established by formulary, usually every six months. That formulary is established by the Government of Ontario.

If the Hon. Member has a complaint about the price of drugs in Ontario he should talk to his friends at Queen's Park.

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TRADE

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION AMENDING 27 STATUTES

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, we all remember the spectacle in the House back in 1982 when the present Deputy Prime Minister became apoplectic in the Chamber in opposition to the national energy policy that was being introduced because, he said, it contained amendments to 15 different statutes. As a result of that opposition the House of Commons was hijacked for two weeks.

At that time the Deputy Prime Minister said that that incredible abuse of Parliament had to be conducted because the legislation was amending 15 different statutes.

The legislation that was tabled a few hours ago contains amendments to 27 different statutes.

I wonder if the Deputy Prime Minister could explain why he was so concerned about the abuse of Parliament and the introduction of an omnibus Bill that changed 15 statutes, and

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why the Government has changed its mind now when it amends 27 different statutes.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, it is a different situation altogether.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mazankowski: The federal Government has the responsibility to negotiate treaties with other countries, and in order to make them effective they have to be legislated. All that is happening here is the legislation simply legislates a free trade agreement with the United States.

There have been other agreements in previous times such as the Auto Pact, and Canada's entry into the GATT, which were done in the same manner, I presume. I find it strange that the Hon. Member is attempting to compare apples and oranges.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, the point I am attempting to make is that the Deputy Prime Minister in opposition said that it was totally unacceptable for Parliament to consider amending 17 different statutes in a single omnibus Bill, and consequently hijacked Parliament for two weeks. I am saying if the Government had that attitude—

Mr. Andre: Order!

Mr. Riis: Quiet, Harvie!

If the Government had that attitude then, why has it now taken on this rather hypocritical position saying that it is all right to amend 27 statutes?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, quite frankly a free trade initiative is quite different from an energy security Bill.

EFFECT OF AGREEMENT ON GRAPE GROWERS

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Over the weekend, press reports stated that the free trade disease is devastating grape growers. There are approximately 850 in the Niagara region, approximately 16,000 jobs, and a comparable large number in British Columbia. Property values are reported to have dropped by 50 per cent. Many farmers cannot obtain the line of credit that they normally receive for operating their vineyards.

Alvin Danyluck, a grapegrower in Niagara who has been in the business for 19 years, has always been able to obtain an operating loan. This year he cannot because of the free trade deal. Can the Minister of Agriculture advise what Mr. Danyluck and other grape growers who are being refused operating loans should do in the face of this challenge to their