

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, February 19, 1987

The House met at 11 a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITIONS

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 106, it is my honour and pleasure to present a petition which calls upon the Government to reconsider its decision to proceed with the changes to the Patent Act.

The petitioners believe that these changes would result in the cost of prescription drugs being significantly increased, thereby making it very difficult for average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs.

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition which has been signed by a number of residents in my riding from the communities of Flin Flon, Leaf Rapids, Gillam, Thompson, and The Pas.

In their petition the undersigned express their concern with the federal Government's intention to go ahead with Bill C-22. They urge the Parliament of Canada to reject the changes to the Patent Act. They believe that they will increase the prices of prescription drugs for the average Canadian consumer and will severely restrict their ability to buy necessary prescription drugs. They also believe that Bill C-22 will unfairly hurt those Canadians whose health care needs require the purchase of prescription drugs on an ongoing basis.

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and privilege to present a petition from residents of the communities of Sudbury, Hanmer, Val Caron, Lively, Levack, Capreol, and Dowling in the riding of Nickel Belt.

The petitioners call upon Parliament to withdraw Bill C-22, because they believe that the changes to the Patent Act would result in much higher prices for prescription drugs than they are at present.

They indicate that in fact it is another example of the Canadian Government's concession to the United States at the expense of average Canadians in the free trade negotiations. They humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject these proposals and to withdraw Bill C-22.

COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING PROMOTIONAL COUPONS AND SAVINGS STAMPS

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-248, an Act to amend the Combines Investigation Act (promotional coupons and savings stamps).

Mr. Speaker: Shall the Hon. Member have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

● (1110)

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to prevent a person or corporation from offering food items on a basis of coupons for reduced prices. It is to prevent this nation from becoming a nation of coupon clippers where food is concerned. The Bill clearly states that any discount on food should be direct, clear and above board and should not depend on whether or not you have clipped the coupon.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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BANKRUPTCY ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING PRIORITY OF CLAIMS

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-249, an Act to amend the Bankruptcy Act (priority of claims).

Mr. Speaker: Shall the Hon. Member have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to change the priority of payment of claims in case of bankruptcy. It would place the salaries and pension plan contributions of an employee at the top of the list when a bankruptcy takes place.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.