

Patent Act—Trade Marks Act

member who has the floor is the concluding speaker in the debate. This debate could be over in a few minutes and that would leave enough time for the bill referred to before proceeding to royal assent.

Mr. Basford: I rose because I did not know how long the hon. member was going to be. If it is a few minutes, I would be in agreement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Benjamin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will conclude in a few minutes. It is my understanding there was agreement we would go to a few minutes past four o'clock, and then deal with the private members' bill. I shall conclude in a few moments.

The government of Canada must, in concert with governments of other countries, conduct a thorough and continuing scrutiny of the drug industry. In concert with these other countries, the government of Canada must carry on the fullest exchange of information in order to protect our citizens, particularly in the matter of drug costs and safety. When action is needed to penalize drug manufacturers or scrutinize drugs, Mr. Speaker, the countries must act together. In other words, we need an international cartel of governments to protect people from high cost and unsafe drugs.

May I say to the minister that I hope I am wrong in my predictions for this bill. I hope the measures he proposes prove to be completely effective in substantially lowering the cost of drugs, controlling the quality of drugs and placing some severe limitation on the promotion and advertising of them.

Many hon. members of this house and many people across the country will watch the effects of this legislation as well as the activities of the minister, his department and the Food and Drug Directorate for the next several months. I feel a year and a half would be sufficient time for these results to materialize. If the results are not there and the minister does not take the initiative to bring about additional measures, there will be others in this house and other places attempting to start those measures.

Mr. Basford: May I, as a matter of privilege, express my thoughts to the hon. members of this house. This bill is now leaving this house to go to the Senate.

May I express my thanks to hon. members of all parties for their contributions to the [Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

deliberations on this bill, to those members who served on the Harley committee and the committee of health and welfare. I thank them for their attention to this very pressing problem.

As Dr. Harley is no longer a member of this house, may I record the thanks of this house to him for his services as chairman of the special committee on drug prices.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Basford: This bill arises from the Harley committee report. It is a very fitting tribute to his years in parliament.

Although people are usually not named in this house, may I take the unusual step of recording those officials who assisted me in my department and in the Department of Health and Welfare. They have acted beyond the call of duty in serving their minister in working on this program to lower drug prices; Mr. McLeod, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Henry, Mr. Laidlaw, and Dr. Chapman.

Motion agreed to, bill read the third time and passed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. It being four o'clock the house will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely private bills.

PRIVATE BILLS**QUEBEC SAVINGS BANK**

On the order:

Second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs of Bill S-27, An Act respecting The Quebec Savings Bank.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I wonder if I might intervene. If the house would make an order, it would be easier. The understanding of the house at this time is to consider item 3, namely second reading of an act respecting The Quebec Savings Bank Act, and upon conclusion of consideration of that bill that we then adjourn. In other words, private members hour would be confined to considering one bill only, namely S-27.

Mr. Basford: We on this side are in agreement. I would suggest an order to deal with item 3 on private bills, and then revert back to government business rather than adjourn. This would be useful. I have had wonderful