outcries that its end result would be to jeopardize the health of the Canadian people. Although Bill C-190 died with the dissolution of the house, I am sure hon. members are familiar with all of the arguments used by those who for various reasons were opposed to it. I can assure you that the Government has taken very much to heart the concern expressed by a number of individuals and organizations.

As a result, Bill C-102 differs from its predecessor in a number of significant ways, which are designed to prevent any deleterious effect which the passage of the legislation could theoretically have on the quality and safety of drugs sold in Canada.

Prominent among these changes is the fact that Bill C-102 includes an amendment to the Food and Drugs Act. Section 24 of this act will be amended by adding to it provision of specific authority to the governor-in-council to make regulations "governing, regulating or prohibiting" the importation into Canada of any drugs manufactured outside of Canada, or the distribution or sale of such drugs in Canada. Action taken under this section of the act would of course be based on the necessity to protect the public in relation to the safety and quality of imported drugs. I am sure hon. members will agree with me that this amendment provides, in the clearest and most unequivocal terms, the necessary authority to control imported drugs.

There is another section of the new bill which provides added health protection to the Canadian public. As hon. members are aware, section 3 of Bill C-102 provides for an amendment to the Trade Marks Act. Under this section, there is a new paragraph, 49A (2), which states that the amendment to the Trade Marks Act permitting the sale in Canada of a drug product manufactured by a company abroad under the same trade mark used by a related Canadian company, would not apply if the product manufactured outside Canada was sufficiently different in its composition to represent a hazard to health. Authority is provided for the publications in the Canada Gazette of a declaration by the Minister of National Health and Welfare relating to a specific pharmaceutical which has been imported and is being sold under a trade mark registered in Canada.

• (12 noon)

Some drug manufacturers have made representations to the Food and Drug Directorate of my department, pointing out differences in the composition of products, produced by their company and sold under the same trade mark in Canada and abroad. In no instance have they presented evidence that the differences in composition would present a serious hazard to health. However, should such a situation develop, the necessary authority to deal with it effectively has now been embodied in the legislation.

Bill C-102 also formalizes the present informal advisory arrangements between the Commissioner of Patents and the Food and Drug Directorate.

Section 1, subsection 13 of the bill requires the Commissioner of Patents to report all applications for compulsory license to the Department of National Health and Welfare. It will be obvious to hon. members that this provides an opportunity to the Directorate to conduct inspections, procure samples of the drug in question, review label claims, and carry out other investigations or examinations to determine if the drug product produced under compulsory license complies, or is likely to comply, with the Food and Drugs Act and Regulations. Furthermore, section 1, subsection 16 provides that nothing in any license granted shall be construed as conferring upon any person authority to prepare, produce, import or sell any medicine contrary to, or otherwise not in accordance with, the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act and Regulations.

Some have expressed concern that imported drugs are intrinsically inferior to those of Canadian firms. There are those who have gone so far as to raise the spectre of a veritable flood of inferior drugs appearing on our market, with disastrous consequences. The evidence does not support these dire predictions. Of the imported drugs in finished dosage form analyzed in 1967 by the Food and Drug Directorate of my department, 16 per cent were unsatisfactory for one reason or another. The percentage of domestically produced drugs in finished dosage form found unsatisfactory was identical—16 per cent. Thus the data provides no support at all for those who claim that imported drugs, as a class, are of inferior quality to those produced in Canada. The analytical results obtained by the Food and Drug Directorate are in line with other information which shows that the vast majority of drugs in final dosage form imported into Canada come from countries with advanced food and drug legislation and manufacturing standards.

Let me illustrate: as of June 1968, 329 firms had filed information with the Directorate on 2761 imported products in accordance with