

might want to make, or perhaps has made already when the house considered second reading of the bill to which he has referred. If the hon. member were given an entirely free hand to discuss this bill we might spend a long time discussing at length and in detail every item of business that is on the order paper.

I suggest to hon. members that this would not be in order, and that an effort should be made to concentrate on the motion that is now before the house.

• (3:00 p.m.)

**Mr. Martin (Timmins):** I agree with Your Honour, so I will approach this question from the other direction. If the motion that is on the order paper is agreed to it will mean that as soon as we finish supplementary estimates and interim supply we can forget everything else on the order paper and go jogging off across the country on what the newspapers like to refer to as another holiday for members of parliament.

If we go off just like that we shall be judged by those in this country who will be affected by our failure to pass the legislation, the sick, the aged and those with chronic ailments who must buy drugs every day and who every day are shocked by the prices they must pay for those drugs.

Here we have an opportunity to lower drug prices and we are asked by the government to forget about it. That is tantamount to saying "Let's get on with the Liberal leadership race and forget our responsibilities and ignore the first opportunity we have had to lower the cost of living in this country. Let's forget all about it. This isn't really important; other things are far more important." The judgment of the people will be passed not only on the government but on the opposition also, and the way our people judge us will depend on the way we deal with this particular issue.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau):** Mr. Speaker, I feel that we must support the proposal of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) inviting the government to give us the assurance that Bill No. C-190 will be considered and passed before the recess.

I wonder why the government is taking so much time to introduce this bill which seems very important for the reduction in the cost of drugs? We are confident that the bill will succeed in reducing the prices which are exorbitant in many cases, and the more we delay in passing it, the longer the consumers

*Adjournment on Completion of Business*

who cannot do without drugs must pay exorbitant prices. For a long time now, the government has told us of its determination to fight inflation and, in my opinion, it now has a golden opportunity to do so, at least in part, by reducing the price of drugs.

I think that we should study this bill before this session is adjourned, and that is why we support the proposal of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

[English]

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, with respect to this motion to adjourn the house after interim supply and the supplementary estimates have been passed, I know most members are always glad to see the house recess after they have been here for a long and strenuous session. Most of us have things we want to do in our constituencies.

I am surprised at the silence of the government benches, at the failure of the Prime Minister or any cabinet minister to tell us why the adjournment is so important that we cannot deal with a piece of legislation which was introduced by the government on the recommendation of a committee of the house, a piece of legislation which has had second reading and only requires to be discussed in committee of the whole and given third reading. Surely the house is entitled to some statement from the government about why the adjournment is so urgent that a vital piece of legislation which could be put through the house in a comparatively short period cannot be dealt with.

I point out that the legislation we are asking be dealt with before the recess is the outcome of the work of a house committee which was appointed about two and a half years ago. The committee spent two years investigating the drug industry, and it professed to be appalled at the high price of drugs for the consumer. That committee brought in a series of recommendations, and the government has acted on one of them by dealing with sales tax on drugs. That action resulted in a temporary reduction in some drug prices, but I am told that prices already are climbing back up, and there has been virtually no relief for those in Canada who have to buy drugs.

The other committee recommendation the government acted on was the introduction of Bill C-190, dealing with patents and trade marks. We discussed this bill fully on second reading, and the government convinced many