

*Motions*

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**Mr. Speaker:** Before I recognize the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez), perhaps I should comment that today he has reached that significant honour and stage in his life in which he joins some others of us, having passed his fiftieth year. Perhaps we could take judicial notice of the fact that he is no longer "l'enfant terrible" but now a mature and seasoned veteran of this place to whom we look for great guidance.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

CNR'S CENTRALIZATION POLICY

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It just goes to show that there is still hope for most of us in this place.

I have the honour and privilege to present a petition that is signed by some 1,500 residents of my home town of Capreol which has a population of 4,000. Therefore, we can see that 1,500 is a significant number of petitioners.

The petitioners in Capreol state that CNR has embarked upon a policy of centralizing railway operations out of smaller railway towns to the major regional headquarters, which is Toronto in our case. The petitioners have also pointed out that the company has refused to provide the public access to any of the conclusions reached through its job rationalization studies.

The citizens also point out that CN has consistently refused to provide any facts, figures, or financial statements to justify its claim for centralization. They point out that centralization is contradictory to present federal and provincial government policies of decentralizing services across the country.

Therefore, the petitioners call upon Parliament to require CNR, a Crown corporation, to end its policy of centralization of railway services, and further call upon Parliament to order a full public inquiry into the company's operations.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure and an honour to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 106 on behalf of a number of Canadians who have indicated their concern regarding changes to the Patent Act. They believe that these changes to the Patent Act related to prescription drugs will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers and will severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy these necessary prescription drugs. They suggest that these proposals by the federal Government will result in higher costs to provincial government drug plans as well.

Therefore, they are calling upon Parliament, especially upon the Government, to reject the continuation of these changes to the Patent Act in an effort to provide fair and accessible prescription drugs to all Canadians.

ELECTIONS, PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURE

CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt)** moved:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Elections, Privileges and Procedure presented to the House on Tuesday, January 27, 1987, be concurred in.

He said: Mr. Speaker, at the outset I want to reassure my colleagues in the House, particularly on the government side, that this concurrence motion in the lobbying report presented by the committee is not any part of a plan to derail the Government's business for this day or for the week. It is not part of any plot or strategy—

**Mr. Gormley:** That is hard to believe.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** The Hon. Member opposite says that it is hard to believe. It is not hard to believe because the motion is appropriate.

Let me quote some headlines from *Quorum* between February 7 and February 9. For instance, the headline in *The Ottawa Citizen* on February 7 is: "RCMP Probing Tory Influence Peddling". In *The Globe and Mail* on February 7, the headline states: "Liberals say four of PM's aides may have had role in rental deal". In *The Gazette* from Montreal, on February 7, the headline is, "PM: We'll win back public's faith". The headline in *The Ottawa Citizen* on February 9 is: "Letter links ministers, PMO to contract: MP". Another headline in the same paper states: "'I'm telling the truth,' Mulroney's accuser says". Another headline from *The Globe and Mail* on February 9 states: "Swirl of scandal lends impetus to PM's reform plans". Another headline on February 9 states: "Quebec Tories propose 'Moral Code' for politics". On Monday, February 9, another headline states: "Ban corporate donations, say Quebec Tories". A headline in *The Gazette* on February 9 states: "Millionaire insists PM interfered in lawsuit".

I point these out because one can even read today's newspaper to see that these are the kinds of headlines being presented to the Canadian public. I believe they create a certain cynicism about Canadian politics in the minds of Canadians.

The reason that the Standing Committee on Elections, Privileges and Procedure studied this whole question of lobbying stems from the whole situation involving Mr. Frank Moores and his setting up of Government Consultants International. Indeed, it was the impetus for the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to declare in August, 1985, following a cabinet meeting in Vancouver, that legislation would be introduced in Parliament. Frank Moores, a former Premier of Newfoundland, had set up this consulting firm. Its purpose was, as it turned out, to peddle influence. We are all aware of the fact that he had been appointed by the Prime Minister to the board of directors of Air Canada. Yet he was off lobbying for other airlines with respect to their dealings with the Government. There was the whole question of his obtaining a fishing licence for someone for a fee. The Prime Minister quite