

conducted an information campaign on Bill C-22. Currently, the CAW - Canada is conducting an awareness campaign on the dangers of over-medication for retired members. It is also actively involved in discussions on long-term care reform in Ontario.

The reason we have been so involved is that, long ago, we recognized the importance of ensuring access to decent, affordable, health care for all Canadians. Finally, thirty years later, this issue is on the public agenda south of the border. This is the perspective we bring to the public debate on Bill C-91.

#### EXTENDING PATENT PROTECTION : THE WRONG REMEDY

From this perspective, Bill C-91 will be a complete and total failure.

Bill C-91 seeks to extend patent protection for name-brand drug manufacturers from the seven to ten years under Bill C-22 to twenty years. This eliminates the right of generic manufacturers to provide a competitive product under compulsory licensing arrangements.

Bill C-91 will put considerable new burdens on our system of universal public health insurance, or Medicare. In most jurisdictions, prescription drug coverage is part of the basic Medicare coverage, at least for senior citizens and those on social assistance. These plans, such as Ontario's Drug Benefit Plan,