

*Committee Reports*

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Spadina (Mr. Heap) has raised a question directed at the Chair perhaps for guidance. At this time the Chair would be very reluctant to make suggestions on what is still a hypothetical situation. The Chair is very consciously aware that this concern comes from all three Parties represented in this House. I think the appropriate course is to take the matter to the committee. It is there that the committee, which is the master of its own procedure, will want to work out how it wishes to deal with the matter.

Committees, of course, are trying to find ways to cover new responsibilities, and this situation seems to be one of those with which the committee itself, at least in the initial stages, will have to deal, on the assumption that Hon. Members take the matter to the committee.

However, I am mindful of the reason the Hon. Member for Spadina has raised this question and the Chair is always ready to discuss difficult matters with Hon. Members at any time, at their invitation to do so.

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## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### RADIO ACT

#### PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the legislative committee on Bill C-3, an Act to amend the Radio Act, I am honoured to present the Bill to the House without amendment.

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### PETITIONS

#### OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from some residents in my riding in Winnipeg who indicate that the federal Government's proposals to change the Patent Act relating to prescription drugs will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers and will severely restrict the ability of the average Canadian to buy necessary prescription drugs. They conclude by indicating that Parliament should reject these proposals immediately.

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and honour to present a petition under Standing Order 106 from residents of Langley, B.C., Aldergrove, B.C., Surrey, B.C., Delta, B.C., from the City of Toronto, from Saskatoon, and Albreda, Saskatchewan. The petition simply points out that changes to the Patent Act, which the Government is presently considering, would result in a significant increase in the price of prescription drugs and therefore would

severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs. Therefore, they are asking the Government to reject the present proposals regarding changes to the Patent Act so as to enable average Canadians to continue to receive reasonably priced prescription drugs.

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and duty to present another petition from senior citizens called Senior Power from the City of Regina and from Regina Beach—I bet you did not know we had a Regina Beach, Mr. Speaker—in which they petition this House, believe and have humbly shown that the proposal to amend the Patent Act will increase drug prices and that this will result in higher costs to provincial Government drug plans. Therefore, they petition this House to reject these proposals which they believe will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

● (1520)

#### TRANSPORTATION—ECONOMIC REGULATORY REFORM

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a further petition from other great parts of the country including Halifax, Dartmouth, Moncton, Waverley, New Bedford and many other places in the Atlantic provinces. The petitioners say that in their opinion transportation is a natural monopoly without economic regulation and the economic regulatory reform or deregulation proposed in the Government's Bill C-18 will create unnecessary chaos in the transportation industry leading to unacceptable reductions in safety standards as well as a deterioration in the quality, type and frequency of service. Therefore, they request that this House have the Government withdraw Bill C-18 or, alternatively, reject its proposals entirely.

[Translation]

#### OPPOSITION TO CANADA POST CORPORATE PLAN

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure and the honour to present petitions signed by Canadians from coast to coast concerning the new Canada Post corporate plan to create two classes of citizens with the installation of postal superboxes.

Wherefore, Mr. Speaker, your petitioners humbly call upon Parliament to reject the Canada Post plan and establish the same postal service for all Canadians throughout this country.

#### REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent):** Mr. Speaker, it is my duty as well to present a few petitions from British Columbia residents, namely from Summerland, Gibsons (North Vancouver), and Penticton. These petitions relate to the tariff on imported English language books and humbly call upon Parliament to withdraw this tariff.