

icals. Clearly the cost of drugs is going up and is going to accelerate.

Would the member support a resolution where National Health and Welfare got involved with doctors to support an initiative to clearly and carefully prescribe drugs that were in the generic area or were alternatives to the brand names? Would he also support National Health and Welfare working with hospitals to reduce the number of approved drugs so long as they covered the needs in order to do an end-run around the pharmaceutical companies in Canada and support pharmacists in the same way?

I contend, as does almost every other Canadian in this country, that this project has more to do with putting money in the pockets of friends than with research in this country or jobs.

Mr. Thorkelson: Mr. Speaker, I am well aware that several provinces have moved to control health care costs. I think the hon. member is trying to infer something when he says they are trying to control drug costs. Some of those deinsured drugs are drugs that are not affected at all but are already generics and so on.

This bill talks about new drugs and new investment, extending patent protection for those. The hon. member's question, with the greatest of respect, really is not relevant.

I have sympathy with what he is saying. Yes, health care costs are rising and yes, we must do something. Some of the provinces have moved in areas to control the health costs and it is up to them to decide how they want to control those health care costs. If some want to deinsure drugs or if some want to put user fees, that is up to them. I am not saying that I agree with that. I believe in universal health care and I believe that we have one of the finest health care systems in the world and we must maintain it at that. However, that question is not relevant to this bill because some of those drugs and some of those items that are deinsured are completely outside the scope of this bill which affects drugs that will be the subject of research and will come on the market. It does not affect drugs that are already on the market.

Government Orders

NOTICE OF ALLOCATION OF TIME TO CONSIDER SECOND READING OF BILL C-91

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): Mr. Speaker, I would like to move the following:

That since an agreement could not be reached under the provisions of Standing Order 78(1) or (2) with respect to second reading of Bill C-91, an act to amend the Patent Act, to amend another act in consequence thereof and to provide for other related matters, under the provision of Standing Order 78(3), I give notice of my intention to move a time allocation motion at the next sitting of the House for the purpose of allotting a specified number of days or hours for the consideration and disposal of proceedings at the said stage.

Let us get on with the business of the country.

Some hon. members: Shame, shame.

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I am shocked.

An hon. member: You should not be; they have used it about 50 times.

Mr. Boudria: Perhaps I should not be shocked, as my colleague has so eloquently just put it. This government has used closure on dozens and dozens of occasions. This is just terrible. This time we are talking about a major piece of legislation. Less than three hours of debate has gone on and this government wants to shut this place down. Parliament has been back since eleven o'clock this morning and this government has lasted until 4.55 p.m. without invoking closure.

• (1700)

An hon. member: They are tired. They are worn out.

Mr. Boudria: They just could not resist any longer. They lasted an unbelievable six hours without invoking closure.

An hon. member: Shame.

Mr. Boudria: Shame on those Tories across the way. I was not going to engage in partisan debate today. I really was not. However I feel provoked by the actions of the government.

I have just spent a number of weeks in my constituency campaigning on the referendum. Before I get into all the details of this bill, I want to take this occasion to thank my constituents for their efforts in that regard, whether they agreed or disagreed with me. I want to take a moment and offer my respects to all who participated in