

Canadian Citizenship Act

the house are pleased with the announcement he has made. With the increasing number of motorboats and outboards motors on our lakes and rivers, it becomes very important to protect the lives of individuals using them. Everything the Department of Transport and others can do toward this end I am sure will be welcomed by everyone.

It was difficult to follow the minister carefully, but it does appear that a very serious effort is being made by the officers of his department to meet a situation which is becoming serious. I am sure the house will rejoice that this is so.

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): I just want to thank the minister for the lengthy answer he gave to my question of yesterday and to inform the house of the relationship to this question of the hon. member for Kootenay West, who tells me that he started advocating this reform in this house in 1947.

HEALTH AND WELFARE**MECLIZINE—PREPARATIONS CONTAINING DRUG
PLACED ON PRESCRIPTION**

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I should like to follow up the answer I gave the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre concerning the drug postafen. As I indicated at that time, postafen is not on sale in Canada. However, officers of my department have been investigating this whole matter and advise that the active ingredient in postafen, namely meclizine, is being sold in products under the latter name and a variety of brand names. A search of our records, which is continuing, has revealed eight such brand names to date. These are bitab 707 and bitab 708, antivert, bitab, bonadettes, bonadoxin, bonamine and promesis.

We are informed that authorities in Sweden have suspected the possibility of congenital malformations being associated with this drug, and that the evidence warrants its being placed on prescription and a warning sent to the medical profession. Pending receipt of further information and the outcome of our current investigation, we believe it prudent to place meclizine preparations on prescription in Canada and to issue a warning to all Canadian doctors and druggists. My department is taking these steps immediately.

This incident, Mr. Speaker, demonstrates once again the complexities of the drug field in this modern age. I believe that it would be more than useful to ensure a thorough study of our current law and practices concerning the introduction, marketing and use of drugs,

and with this in mind I plan to give immediate notice of my intention to recommend to the house the establishment of a special committee to consider and report upon such matters.

[Later:]

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Will the terms of reference of the special committee to which he referred a moment ago on motions be such as to enable that committee to inquire into all the things that we would have been able to inquire into had Bill No. C-3 been referred to a committee? Is there any relationship between the setting up of this committee and proceeding further with Bill No. C-3?

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker, except that any discussion whatsoever that is desired can be undertaken in the committee which it is proposed to set up. I assume that Bill No. C-3 will be proposed by the house leader for third reading at an early date. We would hope this would be accepted; but, as I mentioned, the notice of motion to set up the special committee will be put on the order paper immediately.

CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP ACT**AMENDMENT RESPECTING LANGUAGE
QUALIFICATION OF WIFE OF
CANADIAN**

Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-88, to amend the Canadian Citizenship Act (grant of certificate).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Badanai: The purpose of this bill is to enable a citizenship court to recommend the grant of a certificate of citizenship to an applicant who is the wife of a Canadian citizen, even though she is unable to speak the English or the French language. As everyone knows, there are several hundred wives of Canadian citizens who, by reason of age or as a result of living in isolated places, have not been able to master the English or the French language, and indeed are unlikely to ever learn these languages sufficiently to qualify when they appear before a judge for examination for citizenship.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.