

views, they will be the views of others. They are legitimate views held by people who I think are all respected in this Chamber. This morning I got up and simply went through a pile of newspapers that I had and I would like to refer to some of the points that have been made.

First, I refer to an editorial in the Vancouver *Sun* entitled "Patently wrong" which states:

The stubbornness with which the Mulroney government seems determined to bull ahead with its ill-advised prescription drug bill and foist it on to Canadian consumers against almost universal opposition is something to behold.

Even though Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister Harvie Andre now admits the obvious—that giving the multinationals a 10-year monopoly on the sale of new drugs is bound to increase the cost to consumers—the Government is clinging doggedly to its plan.

The Tories have been mesmerized by a promise from the brand-name drug companies, unsupported by any guarantees, that if they get the extended patent protection they will invest \$1.4 billion in the development of new pharmaceuticals in Canada over the next 10 years and create 3,000 jobs.

The government continues to ignore the other side of the equation, which is the loss of countless jobs in the industry that produces generic copies of brand-name drugs—at considerable savings to Canadians in lower prescription bills and medicare costs.

A study last year by Toronto economist Harry Eastman, who enjoys sufficient government confidence to be nominated as head of a prices review board that the Tories plan to establish, concluded that the production of generic copies saved Canadian consumers \$211 million in 1983 alone. Multiply that by 10 and the total, in 1983 dollars,—

● (1630)

That total comes to \$2.1 billion. That is \$2.1 billion that could be in the pockets, wallets and purses of Canadians so that they could spend it in local communities right across Canada.

I think we have to make it very clear that if any research and development jobs come out of this change to the Patent Act, those jobs will be almost exclusively in central Canada. Those jobs will be in Toronto and Montreal. While that is wonderful for Toronto and Montreal, the point is that there will be very little benefit flowing out of this legislation for the regions of Canada.

The article in the Vancouver *Sun* goes on to say:

The opposition parties and organizations concerned about the drug bill must keep applying pressure until the Tories can see the light.

According to an article in *The Toronto Sun*:

Ontario taxpayers will have to fork out an extra \$35 million a year for drugs under a proposed federal amendment to the patent act, Health Minister Murray Elston said yesterday.

The article goes on:

"The amendment will have severe implications on drug prices," Elston said.

He said it would add at least \$35 million to the \$1 billion Ontarians now pay for drugs.

Some \$400 million of that figure is paid by the government through its Ontario Drug Benefit program for seniors and people on special assistance.

I might add that even though government programs will pay for much of these increased drug costs, the money still comes from taxpayers of the province or of Canada. Again, the

people of Canada are the ones who are providing those additional funds. The article goes on to say:

The remaining \$600 million comes from cash-paying customers and private insurance plans—

A health ministry spokesman said the \$35-million figure "is a conservative one"—

The Territorial Government of the Yukon passed a resolution which reads as follows:

Whereas it is fundamental to the health and welfare of all Yukon people that safe and affordable therapeutic pharmaceuticals be available, and

Whereas Section 41(4) of the Canada Patent Act (1969) has created a situation where Canadian licensees can produce low-priced generic substitutions of brand-name pharmaceuticals to be marketed in Canada, and

Whereas generic substitutions have saved Canadians approx. \$200 million a year, and

Whereas these generic substitutes have resulted in lower Yukon hospital, pharmacare and prescription costs, and

Whereas the proposed changes to the Act will result in higher costs for publicly-funded health and hospital programs and higher prescription costs for individual Yukoners while providing no benefits to Yukoners, and

Whereas the federal Government in the face of constant pressure from the multi-national drug companies and the U.S. Administration has tabled a bill to amend the Patent Act,

Therefore be it resolved that this House urges the federal Government to abandon amendments to the Patent Act which would result in higher costs for all Yukoners.

Interestingly enough, all the Conservative Members of the Legislature voted against that motion. The New Democrats and one Liberal voted in favour of it.

Turning to the Province of Nova Scotia, the Consumer Affairs Minister, Laird Stirling, said:

The federal Government should drop proposed changes to drug patent laws because the costs outweigh the benefits—

"Even with that promise of \$30 million in new money for research (in Atlantic Canada), it would be crumbs,"—

"Why is it we're supposed to be the guinea pigs in this program?"

If my memory serves me correctly, the Nova Scotia Government is still a Conservative Government.

I turn now to an article in *The Toronto Star*. That article quotes Joyce King of The United Senior Citizens of Ontario as saying:

"I have seniors coming to me and saying they don't want to be part of the 51st state," she said. "They're scared and they think they're going to be sold out."

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret but the Hon. Member's time has expired. I will give him another minute to close off his debate.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, that went awfully quickly. Let me summarize.

I have another dozen comments that I just picked out of the news this morning from different individuals, scientists, consumers' associations, newspaper editorials and people like Don McGillivray of Southam News all commenting on the fact that the Government is on a suicidal path to try to introduce legislation that will jam hundreds of millions of dollars of increased drug prices down the throats of Canadians,