• (1630)

I call on the members of this House, particularly on the government side, to stop toying with the lives of thousands of Canadians across rural Canada, admit a series of mistakes has been made and place the welfare of the primary resource industry first and foremost on the agenda. Food production and processing in this country must be made a national security item.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the third time and passed.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 38, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Victoria—The environment; the hon. member for Sudbury—The economy; the hon. member for Northumberland—Somalia; the hon. member for Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville—Rouge Valley; the hon. member for Burnaby—Kingsway—AIDS.

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW IMPROVEMENT ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Pierre H. Vincent (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)) moved that Bill S–17, an Act to amend the Copyright Act, the Industrial Design Act, the Integrated Circuit Topography Act, the Patent Act, the Trade-marks Act and other acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee in the Departmental envelope.

He said: Mr. Speaker, when my colleague in the opposition applauds, that is a good sign; it means that this is a good bill. I want to thank him for that. You will also allow me to thank the senators who studied this bill and passed it.

I believe this is the first time that Parliament has considered a bill amending five laws on intellectual property. This is a first for the Parliament of Canada. I think that several departments should consider such an approach so that, where a vast subject is concerned, the laws dealing with it can be improved together as a package.

Bill S–17 is a result of consultations with the interested community and those concerned are in favour of the various amendments contained in the bill. One may wonder why we would amend five laws on intellectual property all together. For one thing, it is to make the system more efficient and, for another, to make it more accessible for Canadians.

With this package, we are making administrative and technical changes to five existing laws. In the world economy as we know it and as it is coming to be, no country will be able to live or survive if it does not look after developments related to intellectual property. Any country that did not consider intellectual property a priority would be mistaken. In this regard, we in Canada have been working and must continue to work.

• (1635)

The various pieces of legislation we are discussing today are not necessarily up to date and do not necessarily meet the needs of Canadians, which creates higher costs for Canadians in the intellectual property sector who use these five different acts.

I can give some examples of how the situation has changed. Take the Patent Act, for instance. Today, according to the legislation, an inventor must provide a detailed description of his invention in writing, but we know that in 1993 and future years, there will be many new developments in biotechnology. Describing an innovation in biotechnology in writing is probably not the best and cheapest approach for most users. Producing a sample of the biological material would be a more sensible and practical alternative, and that is one of the changes we find in Bill S–17.

Electronic filing and processing of all patent–related documents does not exist at the present time. This is something else that has to be done, both for the government and for Canadians who use the system. Technically, a person can now file a new application but