

citizen with a video recorder, receiving the House of Commons television signal, can obtain for himself or herself an instant play-back of what was said and by whom. While *Hansard* remains the official record of what was said, the 24-hour delay in its publication no longer satisfies the demand for information by a growingly impatient and technologically literate population.

Consequently, the Chair firmly believes that while maintaining the rule against the use of the "blues", it is however time for the Standing Committee on Procedures and Elections to review the question of the "blues", their distribution and the relationship between the official *Hansard* and what has come to be known as the electronic *Hansard*. My predecessors have often requested such a review and, while tempted to do so, I have decided that I ought not to dictate to the House on this question for it is a very important one and I look forward with anticipation to some early direction from the Standing Committee and the House on this matter.

[Translation]

I want to thank Hon. Members for their comments, and especially the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme), because this is a very important question. I also hope that the Chair's invitation to have this very important question considered in committee will meet with the approval of the Members of this House.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 101, I have the honour to table in the House, in both official languages, the report on the Seminar on U.S. Legislative Elections held in Washington, D.C. and Charleston, South Carolina from November 4 to 8, 1986.

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● (1120)

[English]

RAILWAY ACT

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward—Hastings): Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Legislative Committee on Bill C-4, an Act to amend the Railway Act, I have the honour to present its report to the House with an amendment.

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings]

Petitions

PETITIONS

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, under Standing Order No. 106, I have the honour to present a petition which has been certified correct as to form and content by the Clerk of Petitions. In the petition the people of Snow Lake, Flin Flon, The Pas, Thompson, and Leaf Rapids, all communities within my riding, express their opposition to the federal Government's decision to change the Patent Act which they believe will increase prescription drug costs to many Canadian consumers and restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy prescription drugs.

In their petition the undersigned humbly call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition on behalf of a large number of constituents from the riding of Ottawa—Vanier, which says that the changes the federal Government wishes to make in the Patent Act as it applies to pharmaceutical products will increase the price of drugs for Canadian consumers. These changes will also prevent many people from buying the drugs they need and will have a particular impact on people whose condition requires the continuing use of drugs. These changes will lead to higher costs for provincial health insurance plans and are another example of the Canadian Government's concessions to the United States as part of the free trade talks, to the detriment of the consumer.

[English]

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have also several petitions dealing with the fact that the Government has imposed the tariff on imported books in the English language which has limited the access of Canadians to literature and information. The tariff has little negative affect on the publishing industry of the United States yet it penalizes Canada's consumers, book publishers, book sellers, distributors and culture. Rising book prices have placed a strain on the book acquisition programs and policies of our nation's public and specialized libraries. The undersigned humbly pray and call upon Parliament to rescind this tariff which threatens irreparable harm to the Canadian book industry and compromises federal policy on cultural industries with respect to free trade negotiations.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CLOSURE OF CADET CAMP SASKADET

Mr. Jack Scowen (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to present a petition duly certified by the Clerk of Petitions. It is signed by about 750 of my constituents who want to communicate their dissatisfaction and disappointment regarding the impending closure of Saskatchewan's only cadet