

I do feel our tax system is unfairly balanced to those in upper income levels. So much for tax reform!

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[Translation]

### PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

#### TESTIMONY SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF BILL C-22

**Mr. Gilles Bernier (Beauce):** Mr. Speaker, it has become imperative that Bill C-22, the drug patent legislation, be passed without further delay.

Spokesmen for Quebec's *Fédération de l'âge d'or* have stated: "We are convinced that this amendment to the Patent Act is essential to promote research and discover new drugs to treat such diseases as cancer, Alzheimer's, AIDS and other cardiovascular conditions".

Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa said—listen to this, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Opposition in particular should pay attention: "Montreal Mayor Doré and I have expressed our agreement to allow and encourage the federal Government to have its patent legislation passed because we know that this measure will pave the way for much larger research investments in Canada, particularly in Quebec".

The Montreal Board of Trade put it this way: "The greater Montreal region alone is expected to benefit from new investments exceeding \$500 million, and this would create 750 jobs". New jobs, I might add.

We have the strong support of the Montreal Chamber of Commerce.

Quebec Industry and Commerce Minister Daniel Johnson wrote: "As we wait for this strategic and important decision for the industrial future of Quebec and Canada, you can count on my full co-operation".

Mr. Speaker, such testimony speaks much louder than the twisted positions taken by the NDP and Opposition Leader Turner.

Bill C-22 will free hundreds of millions of private investment dollars in Canada and create the kind of jobs our young graduates are anxious to have.

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● (1415)

[English]

### PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

#### CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION OF UNITED STATES DRUG INDUSTRY

**Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House and particularly

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government Members that American legislators have started a Congressional investigation into the American drug industry, and Canada's current system is being held up as a model for the United States to follow.

In testimony before a Congressional hearing, the American Association of Retired Persons praised the Canadian system as: "an appropriate market-oriented model for moderating the trend in escalating prescription-drug prices".

This is just one more opinion in the growing list of people and organizations heaping praise on the current drug-pricing system in Canada, a system that was put in place by a Liberal Government under the leadership of the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner).

It is about time that the Government and the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre) acknowledged that the vast majority of Canadians do not support Bill C-22 and the changes to the Patent Act. Come election time, Canadians will remember who used closure to force this Bill through Parliament. They will remember who prevented witnesses from appearing before the committee. Most important, they will remember who raised prices for drugs by millions of dollars each and every year.

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### ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

#### OPENING OF SHIPPING SEASON

**Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catherines):** Mr. Speaker, the St. Lawrence Seaway is now open for its 29th season. The great inland transportation system has had its share of troubles in past years but 1986 saw a trouble-free season with total tonnage up slightly over that of 1985. For our part, the federal Government has committed \$175 million over the next seven years to prevent any further surprise mishaps.

The United States-Canada trade mission to Europe promoting the expanded use of the Seaway was described as being a big success. If the shippers, the carriers, and the seamen who man the ships will do their part by keeping the traffic moving through the season, the tonnage of movement through the Seaway should increase by some 3 to 5 per cent, and why not? The Seaway is already the most reliable, cost-efficient means of transporting bulk cargo goods of the world to the very heart of the North American continent, and vice versa.

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### CANADA POST CORPORATION

#### CHAIRMAN'S LETTER TO CANADA LUTHERAN PUBLICATION

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, recently the editor of the *Canada Lutheran*, a