

has boasted a great deal, the famous Bill C-190, one of the important effects of which is to reduce the price of drugs.

Therefore, because we have no assurance that this matter will be dealt with, we contend that this motion should not be passed.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Knowles: Hon. members can utter these interjections, but all they are doing is giving me time to think of a few more things to say. Let it not be said that efforts have not been made to get this matter considered. The other house leaders have known for weeks that we wanted this piece of legislation dealt with. Attempts have been made to arrange to see the estimates through and pass this legislation at the same time. Strong words have been used, but one does not need to worry about that. The fundamental fact is that there is a difference of opinion in the house on this legislation. I know why there is a difference of opinion. It is a result of the power of the pharmaceutical lobby, which has influenced a great many people. I think we have a responsibility not only to the pharmaceutical industry, and not only to the Liberal convention, but also to the people of Canada. Therefore I insist that we stay here until this legislation is dealt with.

Although we are going to vote against this motion I have reached the conclusion that its wording does not preclude the possibility of dealing with Bill C-190. Therefore I say that even if the motion carries we shall continue to press in every way we can for Bill C-190 to be dealt with, in the hope that it can be one of the other measures referred to in the resolution which will receive royal assent at the time this part of the session comes to a conclusion. I deplore as strongly as I can the wording of this resolution which denies the Prime Minister's assertion that the business of parliament comes first. It is for this reason that we shall vote against it.

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, we share the concern which has been expressed over the possibility that Bill C-190 will be allowed to die on the order paper at the end of this session. This is a very important bill. I think the fact that the government introduced it is an indication that the government considered it an important measure. On many occasions the government has expressed concern over the high cost of drugs, and in order to achieve some amelioration of the situation they did decide to introduce this measure. They assured us it

Adjournment on Completion of Business

would have a beneficial effect on drug prices. It is a little difficult, therefore, to understand why there has been such delay in having the house deal with it in a conclusive manner.

● (2:50 p.m.)

Now, Mr. Speaker, I too was a member of the public service committee which dealt with another measure to which the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre referred. Remembering the fate of that particular promise there is little to reassure us even if the government does say the measure will be dealt with after the recess. For these reasons, therefore, we share the concern of others about the delay that has been indicated. Yesterday I stated we would be happy to have the supplementary estimates and interim supply go through with a minimum of debate, possibly no more debate than has been held already, in order that we could deal with Bill No. C-190. I still feel that is a desirable procedure and hope consideration would be given to that suggestion.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, just like the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), I see that we will meet again on April 23 after a recess. At that time, it will be much more difficult to have any legislation now on the order paper passed.

We expect, as the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre said, that the next prime minister will then want to prorogue the current session and open a new one.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre mentioned a very important bill which appears on the order paper, that is Bill No. C-190, and we would also like to see it passed before recess.

But there is another legislation which, we hope, will be passed during this session, and I would ask the government house leader to place it among the measures to be passed before the adjournment proposed in the motion before us. It is Bill No. C-186 entitled "An Act to amend the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act".

Everybody knows, Mr. Speaker, that we have been asking for at least two years, amendments to the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act and the composition of the Canada Labour Relations Board.

A cabinet committee studied the problem. At least three ministers, the hon. Minister of Labour (Mr. Nicholson), the hon. Minister of