

Adjournment Debate

could not be acting solely in the interests of Canadians. What advantages would they derive from such a gesture? It would also seem odd, Mr. Speaker, to hear representatives of other countries discussing matters connected with our internal policy.

I would like to point out that we are aware of the situation in other countries, particularly in the United States, because of the many studies that have been published on the subject. For example, one such study, the report of the Commission of Inquiry on the Pharmaceutical Industry prepared by Professor Eastman, makes repeated comparisons between Canada and other countries. Furthermore, our health care system and the legislation associated with it are very different from those in other countries. Our own experts are best qualified to discuss these matters.

I find it particularly surprising that Members of the Opposition are pressing to hear representatives of American interests, in view of the fact that, since the Bill was first tabled, they have been accusing us of bending to American pressure. Let me once again stress the need to ensure that this issue of such vital importance to Canadians results in a consensus among Canadians.

• (1810)

[English]

HARBOURFRONT—MORATORIUM ON TORONTO WATERFRONT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, have you ever had an opportunity to visit Harbourfront in Toronto? Now I do not mean the lakefront or the waterfront, I mean Harbourfront.

Harbourfront in Toronto is, as I hope you are aware, Mr. Speaker, a portion of the Toronto lakefront. It totals some 100 acres in size and stretches from York Street on the east to Stadium Road on the west. It is owned by us, by the federal Government. This is federal land right in the heart of Metropolitan Toronto, situated on prime waterfront territory. It is right next to the water as would be connoted by its name, and it is a wonderful place. In fact, it is a magic place.

I can tell by the twinkle in your eye, Mr. Speaker, that you were just kidding me. You really have been there and you think it is a wonderful place as well.

A number of members of the greater Metropolitan Toronto PC caucus and I had an opportunity to tour Harbourfront last Thursday. We were struck by some amazing sights. We saw the playgrounds, the craft programs, the day camps, the art galleries, the theatres, the outdoor restaurants, the shops, the boat charters, the antique market and the gondola rides.

Have you ever had a gondola ride, Mr. Speaker? Perhaps you have had one in Venice, Italy, but I bet you have never had a gondola ride here in Canada. You could have one at Harbourfront, Mr. Speaker.

Over 4,000 different cultural programs go on at Harbourfront every year. I can see that the Parliamentary Secretary is impressed by this as well. You name it, Harbourfront has it. However, it also has something else. It has a lot of development. While we were there, we heard from the residents of the area about this development.

There is every sort of development at Harbourfront. There are old warehouses that have been turned into retail shops and theatres. There are new and old office buildings, there are co-op apartments, condominiums, hotels and every sort of conceivable public and private building. It is that development that has put Harbourfront into a swirl of controversy in my community of Metropolitan Toronto.

It is that development that caused the City of Toronto to put a freeze on development at Harbourfront in the spring of this year and to institute a development review. It was that same controversy that caused our own Government to put its own freeze on development in the spring of this year and to institute a review as well.

When that freeze went on, six particular buildings had already been approved for construction. Those buildings were described by some as being in the pipeline, and now they are referred to as pipeline buildings. They are in the process of going ahead.

Those buildings include a co-op building at 633 Lakeshore Boulevard West, the Konvey condominium at 650 Lakeshore Boulevard West, the Konvey condominium at 11 Stadium Road, the Rampart condominium at 441 Queen's Quay West, the Huang and Danczkay condominium at 385 Queen's Quay West and the Huang and Danczkay link building at 350 Queen's Quay West. All of those buildings are pipeline buildings that were approved, ready to go ahead but caught in the freeze.

The City of Toronto has recently completed its review of the development on the site but it has come out with some interesting findings. In fact, the city Planning Commissioner said the city should allow those buildings to go ahead but only if the federal Government conveys to the City of Toronto 40 of the 100 acres for parkland. It should also at the same time agree to down-zoning future development. In contrast, the city Parks and Recreation Commissioner, disagreeing with his colleague, says they should stop development altogether on 441 and 385 Queens Quay West because they are between the south side of Queens Quay West and the lakefront. They would block the view of the people of Toronto to the lakefront. The city solicitor says that will cost not only the city but the federal Government tens of millions of dollars.

• (1815)

Last night the City of Toronto council looked at all these reports and made a decision. It said all six buildings in the pipeline should go ahead regardless of whether or not they block the view. However, it said 6.5 acres of the parkland should be transferred to the city and we should tighten up the