

benefits and increase co-payments. Since Bill C-22, several CAW-represented employers have reneged on health care coverage for retired members and their surviving spouses.

Bill C-91 will place additional strains on the collective bargaining process. Until now, the substitution of generic products for brand-name pharmaceuticals has been one way to respond to these cost pressures, without eroding the benefits for our members. This legislation makes this approach untenable.

There is an historic irony to this. In 1982, the CAW - Canada reached an agreement with Ford of Canada which permitted the substitution of generic products, unless the physician specified "no substitutes". However, when news of the agreement reached the brand-name manufacturers, they threatened a boycott of Ford products. Ford of Canada's response was to refuse to implement this part of the agreement! It was then we realized the raw power wielded by PMAC. Like Ford, our government is bowing to their whim.

CONCLUSION

Bill C-91 should be withdrawn. It is poor health care policy, in that it will put greater cost pressures on our Medicare system, and lead to an erosion of the principles of universal accessibility. It is poor industrial policy, as evidenced by the actual experience since Bill C-22 was adopted in 1977. This is