

*Patent Act—Trade Marks Act*

In the first place, this manifests a lamentable lack of confidence in the Canadian Food and Drug Directorate, a lack of confidence which I do not think is justified by the record of the directorate. Hon. members to my right used this same argument last year. This year the minister has added a number of clauses to the bill giving additional safeguards. These, in my opinion, ought to be sufficient to allay the fears expressed by members of the official opposition. Nevertheless, the same argument is still being used just as though there had been no additions to the bill. I am inclined to believe members to my right are using the danger of impure drugs as a kind of smoke-screen behind which to hide their unalterable objection to putting any curb on the activities of drug manufacturers in this country.

The time has come for hon. members to stand up and be counted. Either they are on the side of the manufacturers or they are on the side of the Canadian people who need the prices of drugs brought down. They cannot have it both ways. The screen which worked so well for them last year, because everyone is concerned about the safety of the Canadian people, has worn very thin, now. It no longer hides them. Although they may still be holding it in front of their faces, their rear is unprotected.

The battle to protect the Canadian consumer must be waged internationally as well as on the home front. We think of McLuhan's phrase "global village" and we realize he spoke words of truth and perception when he used that term. Unfortunately, we are living in a global village which is located in the middle of a jungle of private profit and greed; we must introduce a measure of safety and town planning for the inhabitants. This bill is a tiny beginning, or, to use a metaphor, it is a small crumb when we need the whole loaf.

A great many people are anxious to see drug prices brought down. We, in this corner, will take the crumb, but having done so we shall continue to ask for slice after slice, each slice building up our strength until finally we get the whole loaf. I am glad a great many members on both sides of the house are determined that this bill shall be passed and that it shall constitute only the first step in a program to bring down the prices of drugs to a point at which the Canadian consumer realizes he is getting drugs approximately at cost and not at a figure designed to produce enormous profits for the drug manufacturers. I

trust the bill will receive a speedy passage and that it will be the first of a number of measures designed to protect the Canadian public.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. René Émard (Vaudreuil):** Mr. Speaker, I am quite favourable to any measure aimed at providing the Canadian people with quality drugs at lower costs. Given the interest that I always have shown in the field of labour, I could hardly be accused of being too much in sympathy with the large industries or high profits made at the expense of the wage earner. We all know that the worker must pay for everything he gets, and I also know that he wishes the best when the health of his family is concerned. The safety of his family must in no instance be jeopardized.

I was not a member of the special Committee on drugs and this probably is a handicap for me. However, I can now consider the drug cost problem impartially.

The proposed legislation is based on some research statistics going back to 1959 and 1960 and issued by the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission. The matter was examined, but not reexamined by the Royal Commission on health services, that made recommendations in 1964 on the basis of the 1960 data. The special Commons Committee heard many witnesses in 1966 and 1967. Nearly all of them referred to particulars going back to 1959-1960 and provided by the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission.

Except for some superficial comparisons on prices, we are presently discussing a bill that will regulate the future of an important Canadian industry, without a detailed economic study having been done on the part played by this industry in our Canadian society, without having adequate data on the true breakdown of the cost of drugs, namely by age, illness, economic sectors and so on; without an exhaustive study of the primary role played by drugs in some specific diseases like mental diseases, tuberculosis, and so on; and without waiting for the report on the thorough examination being made by the Economic Council on the role played by patents in our modern industry.

For example, the role played by patents as a factor of the high cost of drugs in Canada still remains to be determined. The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Basford) made an international comparison of the