

Patent Act—Trade Marks Act

enough. Therefore, for these several reasons the amendment should not be accepted.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the amendment?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): In my opinion the nays have it. I declare the amendment lost, on division.

Amendment (Mr. Monteith) negatived.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): It being one o'clock I do now leave the chair until 2 p.m.

At one o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 2 p.m.

Mr. Saltsman (for the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I move: That Bill C-102, an act to amend the Patent Act, the Trade Marks Act and the Food and Drugs Act, be amended by inserting immediately after clause 5 (b) the following new subparagraph:

"(c) the regulation of drug manufacturing, importing, and distribution so that only drugs having a generic name be allowed to be sold in Canada,"

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The amendment having been put, may I say that I have some reservations about the relevancy of this amendment and some subsequent ones. I would be prepared to make a ruling now but I would not want in any way to prejudge the issue. If hon. members have comments to make about this amendment, I would be prepared to hear them now. Otherwise I could make a ruling.

Mr. Saltsman: Mr. Speaker, I recognize the difficulty that some of the amendments create. In view of the fact that I intend to speak very briefly on several of the amendments, I wonder whether I might be permitted to

[Mr. Basford.]

accomplish two things, that is, say a few words on the validity of the amendment as well as deal with the matter contained in the amendment.

The reason for introducing this amendment is to strengthen the bill beyond its present provisions. It is to recognize that the bill needs a greater measure of strength than it now possesses. This has been admitted by the minister, who has pointed out that the bill seeks to do some rather limited things and he is prepared to go beyond them if necessary.

One matter the minister has indicated he is prepared to consider and is in the process of examining is the question of an information bulletin that would indicate to physicians and pharmacists the generic names of the various chemicals on the market, their equivalents and their relationship to each other. In the long run, it seems to us that unless the emphasis is placed on generic names no really substantial savings can take place with regard to the cost of drugs.

At one time brand names probably served a very useful purpose. At the time of the cracker barrel it was important that there be some kind of national standard that was recognized everywhere. That was in the days of a rather permanent society before governments had departments which checked into safety, before there was a Consumer Affairs Department and before there were organizations concerned about national standards. Whatever the argument may have been initially for having national brands, and whatever the advantages may have been initially for having national brand names, today they have become a very serious liability in many industries, particularly the drug industry. For this reason I think the time has come when drugs should be sold on the basis of their intrinsic definition rather than on the basis of an artificially created name.

It has been said that if we in Canada were to move to generic drugs the people who buy them would save \$50 million a year in total. I believe this to be the fact. I think the safety of drugs would be guaranteed by the inspection of drug companies and the very adequate resources of the Food and Drug Directorate. It is for these reasons that we are introducing this amendment. We hope the government will consider the importance of the suggestion we are making.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Having listened to the hon. member, I still have the doubts that I expressed originally about this amendment. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre