

Food and Drugs Act—Narcotic Control Act worry and misunderstanding in the Atlantic provinces. If the government makes no effort to deal with this matter before the house rises, it can only be taken as a further indication of the attitude of the government toward the people of the Atlantic provinces.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): If I may deal with that particular point, Mr. Speaker, I understand from my colleague the Minister of Transport, who was here earlier today, that the principal consideration is whether there will be a change in rail rates during the period until the bill is brought into law and that the railways have undertaken not to bring about any change. My understanding is that various groups have sought to make representations in this regard. It was thought desirable to hear those representations before the bill was called forward for further action.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps I should refer to the question of privilege by the hon. member for Oxford. I would think it was not a question of privilege. It seems to me that, a statement having been made by the President of the Privy Council, the hon. member had a very legitimate question. I suggest to him it was not necessary to raise it as a question of privilege.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): I wish to ask a question before oral questions are completed. I raise it as a question of privilege or a point of order. The Prime Minister, the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development and nine or ten other ministers are violating the Prime Minister's roster system. It is impossible for me to get answers to questions regarding the very serious economic problems in Cape Breton. The house leader rises and talks about awarding stars for hockey games. I remind the house leader there can be no stars awarded for the attendance of ministers in the house.

● (3:40 p.m.)

Mr. Groos: They had been in the house for an hour and 35 minutes when they left.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has made his point and I wonder whether we could not go on to the business of the house now.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence I would like to deal with the interjection of the hon. member for Victoria—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I really do not think the hon. member should deal with the

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

interjection. I suggest to the hon. member who made the interjection that the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond had the floor, and his were the only remarks that the Chair heard.

Mr. MacInnis: Just for clarification, Mr. Speaker, it was the hon. member for Victoria who made the interjection.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT—NARCOTIC CONTROL ACT—CRIMINAL CODE

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING CONTRACEPTIVE DEVICES, RESTRICTED DRUGS, ETC.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare) moved that Bill S-15, to amend the Food and Drugs Act and the Narcotic Control Act and to make a consequential amendment to the Criminal Code, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, in moving the second reading of Bill S-15 I would like to give a short explanation of its background. Bill S-15 is a consolidation of two bills which were introduced in the last parliament and not completed at the time of dissolution. One of them, Bill S-21 in that parliament, was designed to create a new category of drugs within the Food and Drugs Act known as restricted drugs. The other, the former Bill S-22, was an omnibus bill whose major component was the creation of a hazardous substances act. This portion of that bill was subsequently shifted to the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs where it formed the basis of the hazardous products bill now before parliament. The balance of the former Bill S-22 was combined with the former Bill S-21 to become the present Bill S-15.

This bill adds a new Part IV to the Food and Drugs Act, called restricted drugs. It also makes certain amendments to the Food and Drugs Act and the Narcotic Control Act which are designed to bring into uniformity certain provisions already in those measures.

This bill further amends the Food and Drugs Act in accordance with the very important recommendation of the Standing Committee on Health and Welfare of the previous parliament by adding provisions that will bring within that act the regulation of the sale and advertising of contraceptive