

*Routine Proceedings*

This year, for the third time since 1982, we organized a consumers' fair for members of this House. Ministers, members and senators had the opportunity, and still have an opportunity for a few more minutes, I think, to go right to the source of the information they can use to answer hundreds of requests from their constituents thoroughly and effectively.

More than 20 federal government departments and agencies took part in this event. I met several of my colleagues at noon today. We hope that all those who took the trouble to go among the displays were satisfied with this event today. It was an opportunity to chat with colleagues, to exchange information and also to add to one's knowledge of the services the federal government provides to help Canadian consumers.

Excellence of products and services must be our main concern and fundamental objective.

We are convinced that a well-informed consumer is more demanding, Madam Speaker. A more demanding consumer asks for better products. This in turn opens up the market more and strengthens competition, a goal we must all strive for to improve the quality of life, both for individuals and for society in general.

That is our position and our commitment. That, Madam Speaker, is the purpose of National Consumer Week. Thank you for your attention and I invite all hon. members here to promote this Week all week long.

**Mr. Eugène Bellemare (Carleton—Gloucester):** Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Minister for his speech on National Consumer Week. However, I think he made a mistake when he said it was the first time this week was held.

According to his own text, on page 3:

This year, for the third time since 1982, we organized a consumer exhibition for parliamentarians.

It definitely was a mistake.

According to the minister's text, on page 2: Tomorrow—

[English]

Tomorrow the minister will be in Montreal for the send-off of a food labelling guide. I congratulate him on that. Finally, we will see simpler language than what is presently on labels. I would suggest to the minister that

after sending off this booklet perhaps he could make some modifications to the labelling law.

Some health claims about certain foreign products are untrue. We need to correct our laws. The processed food companies are not listing any of the contents that constitute less than 5 per cent. There are some products which can be deadly to some consumers. In the past few years we have seen children dying from eating certain products containing foods they are allergic to.

I see that this booklet will be limited to one million copies. I would suggest that the population of Canada is well over 25 million, and perhaps we should have more copies.

On the same day that the minister will be in Toronto rushing to speak to The Intellectual Property Conference, I hope he will mention that a legislative committee is presently in session on the topography of integrated circuits. This is a rather interesting legislative committee, which very few members of the government have been attending. They did attend *en masse* the last meeting to prevent me from having an expert from Osgoode Hall in Toronto come in to make a critique of the proposed law.

I congratulate the minister for his booklet; "Team up for a Stronger Marketplace".

[Translation]

*Faisons équipe à un marché dynamique.* I wonder whether the minister is changing the course of events by having two brochures, one for Francophones and one for Anglophones. I noticed that before, we had guides with the English version on one side and the French on the reverse, so we didn't have to write to the department twice.

[English]

In this particular booklet, "Team up for a Stronger Marketplace", which was produced for National Consumer Week, I find it rather interesting that on one of the first pages signed by the minister it states: "National Consumer Week is an opportunity to encourage a higher level of consumer awareness, education and participation in the marketplace by consumers, business and government. The goal of the week is to emphasize the marketplace partnership among these groups".