

*Food and Drugs Act*

Unless we can do that, we will continue to see people turned away from treatment programs as they have been at Stonehenge in the Guelph region. We will continue to see young people who do not get the message early enough to save lives. We will continue to see the escalating difficulty faced by a society that is bombarded by all kinds of advertisements illustrating the glamour of the beach beer party. We have all seen it and probably we have all participated in it. Unless we can counterbalance that with a responsible, reasonable message about a mature way of integrating alcohol into one's life as one is growing up, we will see a continuing escalation in the problem of legal drug abuse, not illegal drug abuse.

My Party and I will certainly support the legislation. However, we would like to see a response from the Minister to the 29 other recommendations that have thus far been ignored, in particular on the issue of funding for specific treatment programs and for native populations and our young people.

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure to have an opportunity to be in support of Bill C-143. I am sure that you, too, Mr. Speaker, feel a sense of gratitude that at least one of our recommendations has been attended by the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp). On that basis we welcome it. We will do what we can to facilitate and expedite the passage of this legislation. It does not seem to me to be in the interests of what we intended in our recommendations, or in the interests of doing something about the substance abuse problem to delay this Bill simply because we see failures on the part of the Government to adopt all our recommendations, although we take seriously on this side of the House the failure to deal in an explicit and productive way with the entirety of the 31 recommendations that we made.

I know that you are aware, Mr. Speaker, that the investigation by our committee, the Standing Committee on National Health and Welfare, was precipitated by a series of events, culminating in the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) indicating that there was a drug crisis in Canada. This of course was motivated by the statement in the United States by his close buddy and confidant, Ronald Reagan, that there was a drug crisis in the United States as there indeed is in a certain sense. It is my view and continues to be my view that there is not a drug crisis in the United States. There is a social crisis in the United States, a crisis of great disparities in income, great deprivation on the basis of racism, great problems on the basis of emphasis on market philosophy that moves in the direction of sloganeering and easy solutions to complex problems which will not be solved simply by confiscating cars at the border because they have single cigarette papers detected in them.

It was an unfortunate thing that the Prime Minister would have become a copycat in those circumstances because it was misleading in a number of respects. First, it was misleading because Canada is not comparable to the United States. It is true that in certain parts of the country, particularly in Toronto and Vancouver, the appearance of crack concerns us.

We are concerned about the fate of Benji. That is certainly true. But even there one can draw certain relationships between social circumstances and social conditions and the appearance of the more dangerous drugs of abuse.

I am saying that the social problems in the United States that have made hard drug abuse such a concern there have not attained in Canada. I thought it was misleading and an unfit description of our country to say that there is a drug crisis of the nature that exists in the United States.

However, this is not to say that there is not a crisis of substance abuse in the country. The only difference between what we found and what was alleged or implied by the Prime Minister is that while there is a problem and, indeed, perhaps in a certain sense, a crisis with respect to substance abuse, the dimensions of this consist in a large part of the abuse of alcohol and in an additional large part the abuse of prescription drugs. Of course, one could not fail to be conscious of the serious conditions on Indian reserves, native reserves, caused by the abuse of substances such as propane and glue and there, too, the tremendous level of alcohol abuse to the extent that in some reserves the level of phenylalcohol syndrome reaches 50 per cent.

There is a problem of substance abuse in Canada. The failure to address it properly does indeed make it a matter of critical dimensions. Whether or not it is an epidemic is difficult to say. I think we would be more inclined to say that it is endemic, that it is a situation in which we have a large—

• (1400)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner (Ottawa—Carleton)):** I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member. It being 2 p.m. the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

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## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS--BILLS

[English]

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

#### MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed from Thursday, July 7, consideration of the motion of Ms. Copps that Bill C-289, an Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (list of ingredients), be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

**Mr. Brian White (Dauphin—Swan River):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address my remarks to Bill C-289, an Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act. This Bill has drawn the attention of the House to problems faced by many Canadians who suffer from various food allergies. Bill C-289 would require the mandatory listing of ingredients used in restaurant food.

It is important to make the Canadian public more aware of this issue. I want to mention one fact that is very important as