

Proposed Legislation

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Speaker, a considerable number of people in Canada would be disposed to participate fully in the life of the country but they are prevented from doing so by the fact that they have not yet been granted Canadian citizenship.

Therefore, this bill is designed to reduce from five to three years the minimum residence requirement for persons applying for Canadian citizenship.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

* * *

[*English*]

CONSUMPTION DATE OF PACKAGED PERISHABLE FOOD ACT

PROVISION OF LABEL WITH DATE BEYOND WHICH PRODUCT NOT TO BE SOLD

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-214, respecting packaged perishable food.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Mather: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to require, to the extent that it may be done under federal authority, that all packaged perishable foods shall bear a label, readily seen and easily understood by the consumer, stating the date after which the food is not to be sold.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

* * *

JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

REFERENCE OF THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF SOLICITOR GENERAL TO STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker: I am advised that inadvertently the Government Notice of Motion concerning the referral of the third annual report of the Department of the Solicitor General to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs was dropped in the English version of the order paper. The French version carries the notice.

On the order: Government Notices of Motions:

December 16, 1970—The President of the Privy Council:

That the annual report, for the year ended 31st December, 1968, made pursuant to section 30 of the Penitentiary Act, contained in the third annual report of the Department of the Solicitor General, tabled in the House of Commons on November 3, 1969, be referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs; and

That during its study of the aforementioned report, the committee be empowered to adjourn from place to place in Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to section 2 of Standing Order 21, the said Notice of Motion is transferred to and

[*Mr. Prud'homme.*]

ordered for consideration under government orders at the next sitting of the House.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

SCIENCE

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT—GOVERNMENT ACTION RESPECTING POLICY—MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question about science policy. In view of the criticism of the science policy of the government by the committee of the Senate on science, following upon criticism by the OECD some time ago, does the government propose to act in the area of developing a coherent science policy or does it propose to await the further volume of the report of the Senate committee on science?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Both, Mr. Speaker. We have been acting and of course we will be able to act with even more enlightenment after we have received the final report. I understand it is expected about half-way through next year.

Mr. Stanfield: Since some of the blame for the lack of a coherent and effective science policy is attributed by the Senate committee to the overriding authority of the Treasury Board, does the government intend to act in this connection? Without any offence to the President of the Treasury Board, I should like to know whether the government intends to place this responsibility in another ministry in view of these criticisms?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, this criticism has nothing very original about it. I remember telling the House about two years ago that the reason we had asked the President of the Treasury Board to also look after science, even though we recognized some apparent disadvantages, was that the minister was so able in this matter.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baldwin: He has spent too much time on the Auditor General; that is his trouble.

An hon. Member: Stop smiling, Bud.

Mr. Trudeau: The House will recall that in the Speech from the Throne we indicated our intention of establishing a minister who would be responsible for science. I understand that this is what the Senate science committee report has indicated. I also remind the House that we have in our government organization bill, which the opposition parties are now studying, provisions which will permit us to appoint a minister whose responsibility would be for science.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, since as Senator Lamontagne, the very able