

*Hazardous Substances*

[Translation]

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, like the two previous speakers, I should like to say how very pleased I am that this bill is being introduced today although, as was mentioned earlier, the government could have introduced it long before now.

Mr. Speaker, I think, that, on the one hand, it would have probably been easier, and even desirable that this bill be introduced a lot sooner but, on the other hand, I think that it was necessary to wait for developments, to protect the life of people by forbidding them to use certain products which can be found in almost every home and which are too often within the reach of children.

A few months ago it might have been difficult for the government to anticipate the danger of these products as it is rather difficult to anticipate that within a few months or a few years, other products might endanger the life of our fellow-citizens.

In my opinion, this bill introduced today fairly well covers all the dangers which can be brought about by certain substances contained in products of daily use.

I should like to ask the minister for some clarification with regard to this bill which, I hope, will deal not only with imported products but also with noxious products which could be manufactured in Canada. Besides, I hope that the bill will deal with products which can be marketed by some Canadian industries and which could be dangerous also for their users.

Mention is made in this bill of certain beans used in the manufacture of toys or ornamental pieces. I believe that we received some from Japan. I do not believe Japanese manufacturers wanted to endanger the life of Canadian people, but I feel it is up to the government to make sure that products used in the manufacturing of apparently harmless articles do not endanger people's life. I therefore believe the bill is justified and that nobody is opposed to it.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, we must also take steps to remove the danger from aircraft glue. But I wonder whether this is not a fad among our young people. We note—although it is not general—a certain getting-out of hand of our youth. As a matter of fact, it would seem as if some young people were seeking things they cannot find in well-organized environments, that is adventure. Well, they have found it in glue sniffing which permits them to get intoxicated, to get high. Buying glue is easier

[Mr. Mather.]

than buying cigarettes, marijuana, opium or other drugs. I believe the government should take steps in order to prohibit the sale of such products or to cope with the situation, as was mentioned a while ago by an hon. member from Edmonton, by inducing manufacturers to change their manufacturing process and make a non-poisonous product.

The same could also be said about plastic bags. They have been known to cause death, and can still do so. It is often suggested that their users should destroy them as soon as possible or perforate them.

Many other household objects can affect health, and even cause death. Consider, for instance, the excessive use of alcohol. Some people lose their health because of it. To my mind, the government has done very little to date to educate the people about the dangers of alcoholism. I would not go so far as to ask the government to pass a law forbidding its use, because at times, alcohol can be useful; but when it is used unwisely, it can affect health and even lead to death. Alcohol is also, indirectly, the cause of almost as many accidental deaths on our roads as can be attributed to war.

The same goes for the immoderate use of cigarettes. I do not feel that the government should be asked to forbid their use either: yet, an immoderate use of tobacco can affect one's health.

Still, these things are available to thousands of people who, very often, use them without being aware of the dangers involved.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is timely although it comes a little late for some. To my mind, its implementation will lead not only to restrictions in the imports of dangerous products, but it will also constitute a warning about their use. This measure should be accompanied by a publicity campaign so that the people might know that we do not want to restrict their freedom but that instead we wish to protect them against the dangers involved in the use of certain products.

Mr. Speaker, for those reasons, we strongly support this bill.

• (4:50 p.m.)

[English]

**Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Mr. Speaker, like the previous speakers on this subject, I am very pleased that the government is bringing in this bill and I would like to speak in favour of it. I would like, first, to make reference to two particular matters which I feel are important. One is a