

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, October 31, 1973

The House met at 2 p.m.

[English]

PRIVILEGE

MR. WHITTAKER—SELLING OF UNITED STATES APPLES IN HOUSE OF COMMONS CAFETERIA

Mr. G. H. Whittaker (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege, of which I sent you notice, in the interests of the apple growers of Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia.

When I went to the cafeteria last evening I picked up the apple I have in my hand which was offered for sale. It has the telltale marks of bitterpit which render it unfit for human consumption. Believing it to come from British Columbia I asked to see the box, because from the code on the box I would be able to ascertain the packer and probably the grower and therefore could caution them about sending such apples to the House of Commons. But to my surprise and horror I found that the box came from Washington state.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Whittaker: This is the height of the season for Canadian apple producers. My question of privilege is that I ask Your Honour to do everything possible to ensure that we have Canadian apples in the cafeterias and restaurant of the House of Commons.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The Chair has three questions of privilege under advisement at the present time. Two were raised yesterday and a new one has been raised today by the hon. member for Okanagan Boundary. My understanding of the hon. member's question of privilege is that he has noticed that apples sold in one of our cafeterias or the restaurant came in a box from Washington. Of course, the evidence we have before us is that the box came from Washington, not necessarily the apples.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I have much sympathy with the hon. member for Okanagan Boundary, particularly in view of the fact that the best of Canadian apples, the McIntosh, originated in the historic county of Dundas.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I can assure the hon. member that the matter will be looked into.

Two other very important questions of privilege were raised yesterday. One was raised by the hon. member for Halton who complained, I believe, that a stone wall was being built in one of the doorways of his office. We have

looked into this matter and some progress has been made: construction has been stopped. I assume the hon. member can still get over the wall into his office. That matter will be looked into. I am sure it will be resolved and that some other way will be found to establish the fire protection required to satisfy the fire marshal.

• (1410)

The third matter was raised by the hon. member for Prince George-Peace River and had to do with unwed fathers. I am afraid I can do very little about the problems that beset pregnant fathers.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

AIR TRANSPORT

SUSPENSION OF TRANSAIR SERVICE IN WESTERN MANITOBA AND EASTERN SASKATCHEWAN—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the terms of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing importance arising from the decision of the Air Transport Committee to permit Transair, the regional air carrier for midwestern Canada, to suspend its services into western Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan effective January 1, 1974. I ask leave of the House to move, seconded by the hon. member for Dauphin (Mr. Ritchie):

That this House urges the Minister of Transport to delay the implementation of the ATC decision until such time as the regional air policy is thoroughly reviewed and updated to meet the air transportation needs of developing areas in Canada.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's motion is proposed under the terms of Standing Order 43 and requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimity?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimity. The motion cannot be put.

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GRAIN

RAPESEED PLEBISCITE—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Elias Nesdoly (Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of