

*Routine Proceedings***ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS***[Translation]*

The Speaker: Hon. members collectively have empowered me as the Speaker to make decisions on what will be in order or out of order in question period. I take this responsibility very seriously.

The hon. member has asked if he can rise on a point of clarification. If an hon. member wants clarification I will be very happy to speak with him or her in my chambers. I find that I am being asked more and more for clarification of decisions that I have taken in the course of question period. I hope that most members feel that the decisions I take are taken in the best interests of the House.

With regard to the points that come up I beg that you give me latitude so I can carry out question period in a judicious manner. Of course a point of clarification can be raised but many times when a point is raised I am led into hypothetical cases which could be misinterpreted.

Therefore, if members will agree, I would prefer that if you have points to be clarified about a particular decision I will be happy to speak to you in my chambers about it. When we keep having these discussions come up time and time again I feel that what is being questioned, not necessarily in this case but in some instances, is the decision itself. I hope you would give me enough room to make those decisions.

BILL C-106

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, this is in reference to the decision made by the Speaker with regard to the vote tonight.

For the benefit of all members, some who may not have been physically in the Chamber at the time of Mr. Speaker's ruling, I take it that the vote for today only, without creating a precedent, will remain at 5.30 p.m. Perhaps Mr. Speaker can indicate that.

• (1510)

Second, there has been informal consultation between the Reform Party whip and myself to bring the matter as per the Speaker's suggestion to the procedure and House affairs committee in order to attempt to make more uniform the rules as they apply to every single day of the week rather than the ambiguity which some could perceive as being in the rules at the present time.

The Speaker: My colleague, it is my understanding that if the whips of the major parties agree that the vote will be at 5.30, which I presume is the agreement reached, I do not have to ask for unanimous consent of the House.

I see the three whips in front of me now and there is no question but that the vote is going to be at 5.30 and that is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to seven petitions.

* * *

*[English]***MOTION NO. 383**

Mr. Rey D. Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, through you I seek the unanimous consent of the House for me to withdraw my private members' Motion No. 383, now in the order of precedence, on the subject of cigarette lighters and the Hazardous Products Act. The government has already taken the action intended by my private motion since it was tabled last February 6.

The Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

(Motion withdrawn.)

* * *

PETITIONS**GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS**

Mr. Andy Scott (Fredericton—York—Sunbury, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing order 36, I am pleased to present on behalf of over 100 signators from the the riding of Fredericton—York—Sunbury a petition which deals specifically with the proposal from the interdepartmental committee on household goods to remove services and change the way the federal government purchases moving services by offering all federal government moves to one carrier.

The petitioners pray and call on Parliament to direct the interdepartmental committee to drop the proposal and to work directly with the Canadian moving industry to develop other alternatives to reduce federal expenditures.

CRIMINAL CODE

Mr. Werner Schmidt (Okanagan Centre, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I present to the House a petition on behalf of our young children. It is a petition signed by 65,000 people. The petitioners ask the House to amend the Criminal Code to prohibit pardons for those convicted of sex offences against children.