

Adjournment Debate

Information Association to discuss the various available courses of action to address this serious situation. Among the available options are the use of signs in restaurants advising customers about the ingredients in the meals served in that establishment, or labelling the individual serving of food.

The first option was tried in the United States with the use of sulphites in foods in salad bars. However, as it turned out, this approach was difficult to enforce and hence was not very effective even in a limited application such as salad bars. Based on this experience, one can imagine the difficulties this approach would pose trying to cope with a much broader based situation. The logistics of instituting the latter choice, that is, the labelling of individual servings, renders it virtually impossible for a many-itemed menu and recipes which might frequently vary depending on the availability of ingredients.

Another option, of course, would be to put ingredient information on the menus. The economic considerations and labour requirements to keep the menus updated would be substantial with no guarantee that people would even read or understand the information. These comments would also apply to the preparation of a booklet containing such information for the consumer.

Another possibility is the appointment of one person in each establishment who is responsible for consulting with and advising patrons on the ingredients in the meals served in that establishment. While such a personal touch does have some appeal, it places a sizable burden on the designated person, and problems could arise if this person were not available or had to advise several consumers at different tables which would slow service and possibly irritate the customers.

Although there are many courses of action to address this situation, there is not a simple and convenient solution to this entire problem. However, I am advised that the Health Protection Branch, the Allergy Information Association and the Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association have recognized the immensity and the complexity of this problem. They are agreed that the first efforts at providing ingredient information to the consumer should be concentrated in the "quick service" food industry.

Furthermore, all parties have agreed that at the present time it is only feasible to provide this information for the allergens responsible for the most severe and/or most frequent adverse reactions. A list of these allergens is in preparation with the assistance and support of the Allergy Information Association, and with input to be solicited from the medical profession. The information on the presence of these selected allergens in the menu items of the food service establishment is intended to be presented to the consumer in an easy to understand chart format. The timetable and other details of the implementation of this chart into the "quick service" establishments are under consideration at this time.

If this Bill before us today is passed, we shall be forcing a bureaucratic posture on the public and the food industry without any consideration of the effectiveness of this measure

or the difficulties involved in implementing this action. In fact, it may well jeopardize the progress being made by the health professionals in resolving this matter.

We should let these issues continue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 36(2), the Order is dropped to the bottom of the list of the order of precedence on the Order Paper.

● (1800)

[*Translation*]

I have received written notice from the Hon. Member for Athabasca (Mr. Shields), informing the Chair that he is unable to present his motion during "Private Members' Hour" tomorrow, Friday, June 10, 1988. Since it was not possible to proceed, pursuant to Standing Order 39, with an exchange of positions in the order of precedence, I herewith order the Clerk's office to place this item at the bottom of the order of precedence. Since the notice will be deleted, "Private Member's Hour" will be cancelled, and pursuant to Standing Order 39, the House will continue with or revert to the business before it prior to "Private Members' Hour", until the ordinary hour of daily adjournment.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*English*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 66 deemed to have been moved.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—TRANSCONA SHOPS—
REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE WORK WILL REMAIN IN
WINNIPEG/REQUEST FOR MINISTERIAL ASSURANCE

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, I rise to pursue a question that I asked of the Minister of Transport (Mr. Bouchard) some time ago. I rose at that time to ask whether the rumours were true that I had heard about the closing of the CN reclamation plant in my riding. The Minister answered that this indeed was under consideration. Only a few weeks later CN announced that it was closing down what is known as the reclaim in Transcona. I rise today to continue my objection to this decision by CN.

I raise this issue in Parliament because I see it as part of a continuing pattern of depriving Winnipeg, in this case Transcona, of what should naturally be there as a result of its relationship with CN and as a result of its geographical location.

We know that Winnipeggers are very sensitive, and rightly so, about work leaving Winnipeg for other parts of Canada. This sensitivity was rubbed raw by the CF-18 decision, but it