

Mortality Rate Among Indians

Mr. Speaker: There is not. The motion will not be put to the House.

Some hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, may I rise on a question of privilege and ask which unconscionable person objected?

Some hon. Members: All of them.

An hon. Member: The Prime Minister first.

Mr. Trudeau: As always.

Some hon. Members: The just society.

Some hon. Members: Just for Grits.

An hon. Member: An insensitive society.

An hon. Member: Handouts, pay-offs, just for Grits.

CIGARETTE POISON CONTENT CONTROL ACT

MEASURE TO CONTROL MAXIMUM TAR AND NICOTINE LEVELS

Mr. W. M. Howe (Wellington-Grey) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-166, to control the tar content and nicotine level of cigarettes.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Howe: Mr. Speaker, in view of the information that comes to hand from time to time that there is a difference in the amount of deleterious material found in cigarettes, the purpose of this bill is to provide for the industry to be brought under the Food and Drug Directorate in order that the safest possible cigarette will be made available to the Canadian public. I would ask that this bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Services, in view of the fact that this committee at the present time is considering this question.

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

INDIAN AFFAIRS

MORTALITY RATE

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Skeena, to move the adjournment [Mr. Speaker.]

of the House under Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the catastrophic decline in the health standards of the native people of Canada as revealed yesterday in a letter made public from the Department of National Health and Welfare, revealing that the native people's death rate has increased by 6 per cent for males over the past three years and 8 per cent for females, and the immediate and urgent need for the Department of National Health and Welfare and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to take immediate steps to deal with this crisis.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg North has given me the notice required under Standing Order 26 and I have had time to consider the matter very seriously. I can assure the hon. member in all honesty that this is a decision that is not easy to make. I have pondered the aspects of this situation. I have looked into all aspects of Standing Order 26 and have taken into account other considerations, wondering whether the business of the House scheduled for today should be set aside for the purpose of discussing the most important and serious matter raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg North and which was referred to earlier today under the provisions of Standing Order 43 by the hon. member for Skeena.

After due consideration I think I must rule with extreme reluctance that this is not the type of motion which can be put to the House at the present time. While there is no point in my going into all the subparagraphs of Standing Order 26 which specify under what circumstances a motion can be put to the House, I might refer the hon. member to Standing Order 26, subsection (5), which states:

In determining whether a matter should have urgent consideration, Mr. Speaker shall have regard... to the probability of the matter being brought before the House within a reasonable time by other means.

I hope that by an agreement of some nature some way may be found by hon. members to bring this very urgent matter of national importance before the House for discussion.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

INDIAN AFFAIRS

MORTALITY RATE—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON REPORT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, will the Prime