

Introduction of Bills

which it was important to make before the budget presentation tomorrow. Because it would affect farmers and small business people, I wanted to present that motion today. But I rise on a question of privilege simply to make representation that immediately a quorum is established in the House we should then call Standing Order 43 so that the maximum number of members can be heard on whatever motions they wish to present.

Madam Speaker: I appreciate the hon. member's remarks. Today there were five members from the Conservative party who were able to present motions under Standing Order 43. Some days there is the possibility of having a few more members present motions, but this depends on the length of those motions. I usually start very close to 2.05 p.m. with motions under Standing Order 43, and the hon. member knows that our Standing Orders require me to begin question period at 2.15 sharp, which I usually do. Sometimes I go a little beyond 2.15 if a member has risen a few minutes beforehand, and let him continue. But I do have to cut the motions off at 2.15.

I am sorry the hon. member could not get his motion in today, and I hope he will be luckier another day.

MR. TAYLOR—PROCEEDINGS RESPECTING S.O. 43 MOTIONS

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I was in a similar position to that of the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Malone) and noticed it was 2.08 before the motions under Standing Order 43 started today.

Madam Speaker: There is no doubt that I have to wait until the House has settled down, as the hon. member will appreciate. If members came in a little earlier and settled down, we could get started. I cannot start the proceedings under Standing Order 43 when I feel the House is too noisy, and this also applies to the galleries. We have to wait until there is a reasonable working atmosphere—if I can call it that—before starting. I agree with you, I did start a little later today, but it was not because I wanted to cut members off. It was just that the circumstances did not allow me to begin earlier. We shall try to start on the dot from now on, if members will co-operate, as I am sure they will.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

STATISTICS ACT
MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. Bob Wenman (Fraser Valley West) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-617, to amend the Statistics Act.

He said: Madam Speaker, I am aware that the introduction is probably both the beginning and the end of this bill because of the procedural gags which are placed on private members' initiatives. Nonetheless, in the struggle to create a more open government which recognizes that public information does, indeed, belong to the public, it is also important to limit public information gathering which employs compulsive, coercive or misleading methods in acquiring that information from private citizens.

The federal government today has at its disposal the means to acquire information from its citizens in a manner that is not at all compatible with the spirit of a free and democratic society. Statistics Canada surveys have come under attack from people all across the country, for very good reasons—they constitute a blatant and legalized invasion of privacy, legal, because an individual can be fined up to \$500, imprisonment for three months, or both, for refusing to answer all detailed and personal questions demanded by Statistics Canada surveys. My bill seeks to overcome this shortcoming. An amendment to the Statistics Canada Act would remove the penalty for refusing to answer all but the most fundamental questions pertaining to the household itself. With this change we can take the first steps away from government's Big Brother image by slowing the headlong rush into the dehumanizing world of information banks now being established.

Madam Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the hon. member shall have leave to introduce the bill?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

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

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. D. M. Collette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 508 to 519 inclusive, 1,287, 1,319 and 1,446.

[Text]

STATUS INDIANS—USE OF MEDICAL SERVICES

Questions Nos. 508 to 519 incl.—**Mr. Orlikow:**

For the years (a) 1976-77 (b) 1977-78 (c) 1978-79, what was the total number of status Indians using medical services as compared with the rest of the population in the province of Manitoba?

For the years (a) 1976-77 (b) 1977-78 (c) 1978-79, what was the total number of status Indians using medical services as compared with the rest of the population in the province of British Columbia?

For the years (a) 1976-77 (b) 1977-78 (c) 1978-79, what was the total number of status Indians using medical services as compared with the rest of the population in the province of Alberta?