

*Routine Proceedings***ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[English]

ORDER IN COUNCIL

TABLING OF PLACEMENTS

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege to rise today in the House and table, in accordance with Standing Order 32(2), in both official languages, Order in Council P.C. 1992-2519 which places members of the Canadian Armed Forces on active service for the multinational military effort in and around Somalia.

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GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

Mr. Jim Edwards (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to 40 petitions.

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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**HEALTH AND WELFARE, SOCIAL AFFAIRS,
SENIORS AND THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, on February 19, 1992 a report of the subcommittee of the standing committee on health, welfare and social affairs tabled a report in this House on hepatitis B. The report called upon the government to initiate a national hepatitis B vaccination program.

To date, 10 months later, the government has failed to respond to this report. In view of that some of the provincial governments have had to start initiating programs on their own. This means we are now developing a patchwork instead of an integrated public health program that would protect all Canadians.

The government has had 10 months to respond to this report. When does it intend to file a response to the hepatitis B report?

Mr. Jim Edwards (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I have heard my friend's representation and I will undertake to respond to him as soon as possible.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): On the same point, Mr. Speaker. There are 17 reports awaiting a response from the government, 17 reports of standing committees of this House that have not received an answer in the appropriate time. Seventeen is a lot of reporting.

I know the parliamentary secretary is a fair and serious man. Will he give us an undertaking that we will have an answer by tomorrow as to why these reports are not in the possession of the House?

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, as the House is aware all of us were preoccupied for some weeks with the referendum question. That now being behind us, these reports are now emerging.

While I cannot guarantee they will be available tomorrow, I can tell my hon. friend I have given assurances and I am sure myself that a large number of them will be deposited during the course of this week.

I cannot promise a deluge, but there will certainly be a flurry.

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• (1510)

TOBACCO RESTRAINT ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-382, an act to amend the Tobacco Restraint Act (persons under the age of 18 years).

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Pursuant to Standing Order 68(2), the motion is deemed adopted.

Mr. Malone: This bill is part of a series of initiatives that needs to be undertaken to enhance the health of Canadians. The bill yields two significant achievements. First, it raises the legal age for the purchase and use of tobacco from 16 to 18. Second, it increases the penalty for retailers who sell tobacco or tobacco products to minors.

The present legislation was enacted in 1908. It established that a person under the age of 16 convicted of smoking will be reprimanded upon first offence, be fined