

have seen its operation in Edmonton, as well as here in Ottawa. While we may not be able to prevent the use of this game in Canada, we can and should take action to prevent any further importation of games such as "Death Race". In order for this game to be removed from the Canadian market, perhaps a retroactive law should be put in place to compensate individuals who have already imported it.

My concern is shared by a good number of Canadians. Editorials condemning the game have appeared in a number of newspapers across Canada. The municipality of Guelph, Ontario, has decided to pass a bylaw banning the game from that city. Also a private member's bill was introduced by Mr. Gordon Taylor, a member of the Alberta legislative assembly. His bill is similar in nature to the one I am introducing today. It provides for an amendment to the provincial amusements act, which would provide the provincial government with the authority to censor games such as those that entertain by simulating the killing of human beings. In addition, the Canada Safety Council has given its full support to my efforts in this area.

I have never been one to seek government action or regulation, unless I thought it was very necessary. However, in this case I feel it is very much in the public interest to ban the importation of such games as "Death Race". There are other examples of such games, and I chose to use this one. I ask all hon. members to join with me in supporting this bill.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Alan Martin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to involve myself in this debate on behalf of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Allmand). The hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Schellenberger) is to be commended for bringing forward this area of concern. More and more Canadians are asking themselves about the influence of various items on the younger elements of our society. These items are put before them through various types of marketing devices such as television and others.

In fairness, it is important to put on record some of the concerns which we have regarding this particular bill and its ability to do the job the hon. member for Wetaskiwin would like to see it do. I am sure many other hon. members would support him in the general thrust of his bill.

● (1712)

The bill, entitled "Act to Amend the Customs Tariff" has as its purpose—and I quote from its explanatory note:

... to prevent the importation into Canada of slot machines such as "Death Race" in which the object is to drive a simulated vehicle so as to "kill" as many pedestrians as possible in a given time period.

This bill opens up some very broad avenues of discussion at this time. I am sure that many members of the House share the view of the hon. member for Wetaskiwin that games of violence in general are reprehensible. In fact I think the whole idea of such games is abhorrent to many of us, probably to most of us, but I wonder if the hon. member is approaching the

problem in the proper fashion by presenting the bill he has placed before the House.

Careful consideration of the bill reveals a very important limitation in it, namely, that it deals only with products such as the "Death Race" game which are imported into Canada, and not with those games which might be manufactured in this country. In other words, if the bill were to become law, there would be nothing to prevent manufacturers outside Canada from setting up shop in this country and manufacturing the products within our own territory.

At the same time, the bill attempts to deal with a problem which is considerably larger in scope than a few children's games. What we are dealing with here is the problem of violence in our society, and what we as a government can and should do about it.

Various people have said that the games are a hazard to our society and that they should be banned on that basis. We have heard this comment made about a number of games at different times. This might lead a person to assume that perhaps this should be done under the Hazardous Products Act administered by the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Perhaps I should outline briefly for hon. members the history and purpose of this legislation. The act came into force on June 27, 1969, and it was intended to deal with what might be referred to, in general terms, as consumer goods.

The act makes specific mention of such product categories as those designed for household, garden or personal use, for use in sports or recreational activities, or for use by children. It also mentions, without reference to end use, poisonous, toxic, flammable, explosive and corrosive products. However, it excludes from its purview food, drugs, cosmetics, pest control products, radioactive materials and explosives within the meaning of the Explosives Act.

Under the act, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Allmand) is empowered to require disclosure of information in the possession of the manufacturer of any product within its purview respecting the product's nature and composition.

On the advice of the minister, the governor in council may include in the schedule to the act any such product where he is satisfied that it is, or is likely to be, a danger to the health or safety of Canadians.

It is unlawful to advertise, sell or import into Canada a product included in Part I of the schedule of the Hazardous Products Act. It is, moreover, unlawful to advertise, sell or import into Canada a product included in Part II of the schedule, except as authorized by regulations.

The Hazardous Products Act has teeth. An offence is punishable on summary conviction by a fine of \$1,000, imprisonment up to six months, or both, or as an indictable offence by imprisonment for up to two years.

Inspectors with powers of search and seizure are designated under the act. A hazardous products inspector may enter, at any time and any place where he reasonably believes a hazard-