

Privilege—Mr. Lalonde

Madam Speaker: Order, please! I thought I had made myself clear. If the minister felt that the matter was so urgent, he should have come to the House the following day and raised his question of privilege or have it raised by someone else. I would therefore ask hon. members to refrain from commenting further on this matter, since I have now given a ruling.

[English]

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): On this question of raising it at the earliest opportunity, I refer Madam Speaker to page 348 of the nineteenth edition of Erskine May.

Some hon. Members: Madam Speaker has ruled!

Mr. Smith: It reads:

A matter which is postponed to suit the convenience of the House or to secure the attendance of a member implicated, or to give the Speaker an opportunity to consider it fully—

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: Order, please! I am very sorry, but I have given a ruling on the matter. I would like to have the hon. members' co-operation.

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, without wishing to reflect on the ruling you just made, I believe it is important that the House should get some clarification on whether the ruling you have given in this very specific case or the citation just quoted by my parliamentary secretary should apply in a case where a member or a minister raises a question of privilege. I do not want to dispute your ruling or refer to it in any way, but we have here a ruling by the Speaker and a statement by Erskine May, and I should like to know which of the two should apply.

Madam Speaker: I can provide the minister with some clarification by quoting a case I have here in English, which entirely supports the ruling I have just made, namely—

[English]

The proper time to raise such a point of order, that is about unparliamentary language, is when the words are used and not afterwards.

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, I rise on another subject. After consultation with the Clerk of the House, I believe this would be the appropriate time to seek unanimous consent of the House to propose a motion to refer the question of prostitution, a very difficult—

Madam Speaker: Order. The proper time would be when motions are called.

• (1520)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

NATIONAL HARBOURS BOARD

TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING PURCHASE OF TWO STACKER-RECLAIMERS FROM MITSUBISHI

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I wish to table a copy of correspondence on the purchase of two stacker-reclaimers from the Mitsubishi Company by Ridley Terminals Inc., a corporation with which the National Harbours Board is involved. One of our Canadian companies, Stephens-Adamson, objected to the purchase, and there was an exchange of correspondence between Stephens-Adamson and the National Harbours Board on the subject. That is the document I wish to table in the House.

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[English]

PETITION

MISS JEWETT—NICARAGUA—RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition on behalf of Canadian Action for Nicaragua, representing over 5,000 Canadians from all parts of Canada, supporting the right of Nicaraguans to self-determination and condemning outside threats against the sovereignty and people of Nicaragua.

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[Translation]

UREA FORMALDEHYDE INSULATION ACT

PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO HOME OWNERS

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs) asked for leave to introduce Bill C-109, to provide for payments to persons in respect of dwellings insulated with urea formaldehyde foam insulation.

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

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[English]

JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE RESPECTING STREET SOLICITING FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROSTITUTION

Mr. Jim Peterson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development): Madam Speaker, this motion arises out of a proposal that was