

*Routine Proceedings***CONSUMER PACKAGING AND LABELLING ACT**

## MEASURE TO AMEND

**Mr. Tom Wappel (Scarborough West)** moved for leave to introduce bill C-265, an Act to amend the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act (nutritional value of food).

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall the Hon. Member have leave to introduce the said bill?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Wappel:** Mr. Speaker, briefly the purpose of this bill is to ensure that the nutritional value, including vitamins, carbohydrates, fats and calories per portion of all processed foods is clearly stated on the package. This will provide important information for consumers to use when deciding which processed packaged foods to purchase for consumption.

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

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**PETITIONS**

## REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, I move:

That, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 133(2), the petition of Mr. Leslie Benjamin, seeking the passing of an Act establishing a national passenger rail service, filed after the time limit specified under Standing Order 132, be referred to the Standing Committee on Elections, Privileges, Procedure and Private Members' Business, together with the Second Report of the Clerk of Petitions thereon, presented to the House on Monday, October 2, 1989, for any recommendations the Committee deems advisable.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? The Hon. Minister on a point of order.

• (1110)

**Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of State (Youth) and Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)):** Mr. Speaker, I think I may be able to assist my colleague from Thunder Bay—Atikokan, the House, and yourself. We have had an opportunity to examine the motion. I understand the difficulty here is a technical one. The hon. member has not had the opportunity to present his petition and from a procedural point of view has run into a problem. I can inform the House and the hon. member

that we are ready to offer unanimous consent so this matter may be sent to committee as asked for in the motion.

**Mr. Speaker:** On the same point of order, the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan.

**Mr. Angus:** Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the government's desire to expedite this matter. I would, however, like to have an opportunity to briefly explain the purpose of the petition and of the request from Mr. Benjamin.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to the procedure, except that if there is going to be a debate, we will be there.

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan may proceed as is his undoubted right to enter into debate on this.

In view of the comments of the minister, it is appropriate to say to the House that the Chair will, of course, apply the rules. The Chair will also be taking into account the fact that this is a procedural matter and that is what must be addressed. I hope hon. members will take that into account as the Chair will certainly take it into account. The Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan.

**Mr. Angus:** Mr. Speaker, I will endeavour to stick to the procedural aspects. Under the Standing Orders petitions for bills from private individuals should have been tabled in the first six weeks of the sitting of this House, that is, by May 12 of this year.

The reason the petition was submitted late is that at that point in time we were not aware of the need to develop a new national transportation system because we did not know that the government was going to eliminate the existing one. The Budget came down on April 27, so that was after the fact, decisions of yesterday were after that deadline. I submit to you, Sir, that the reason we are asking for this matter to be referred to the appropriate standing committee is so we can have that deadline waived allowing us to proceed to do what this government has refused to do and that is to develop a national transportation system that has permanency and legislation.