

Report of Committee

right and obligation to protect. However, what hon. members have failed to recognize and what they have failed to say anything about is the responsibility of the press to this country and to hon. members.

● (1640)

If hon. members have an obligation to protect freedom, they also have an obligation to insist upon press responsibility; and if, in fact, the rights of an hon. member are transgressed, we have an obligation to impose upon the press its responsibility either through the courts, through this House or through telephone calls. I suggest that if a minister has any responsibility beyond that of a member of parliament, it is to be more acutely aware of the freedoms and responsibilities the press has and to insist, even more strongly than a backbencher would insist, that those freedoms and responsibilities are honoured. In no way does that detract from the individual rights of hon. members of this House or of citizens of this country. In terms of protecting themselves and protecting hon. members of this House, the responsibilities of ministers are more acute because they also have to protect all the citizens of this country.

Mr. Speaker: There are other hon. members who have been encouraged to contribute at this late hour of the debate. We have now spent almost two hours on the subject. It is not that it is not an important subject, but we are prejudicing and putting in jeopardy one of the few remaining allotted days for opposition commentary in the House, and I do not want to restrict the rights of hon. members. After all, we are not dealing with the course of conduct of one minister. Reference has been made in a rather dramatic way to that course of conduct, but the reference must be taken as an indication of support for the main question which is really of a much broader context and is quite a different question. That broader question relates to some remarks made by the hon. member for Maisonneuve-Rosemont (Mr. Joyal) who has indicated, for valid reasons, his absence and his desire to participate. Therefore, the matter will stand until then. If there are other hon. members who wish to participate at that time, perhaps they could hold their comments now so that we can observe the opposition day.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Eighth report of Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs—Mr. MacGuigan.

[Editor's Note: For text of the above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

[Mr. Daudlin.]

[Translation]

MARRIAGE ACT

PRESENTATION OF PETITION RESPECTING ROCH AND MARIE-ROSE MORIN

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): With your leave, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a petition.

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[English]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Ralph E. Goodale (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 2,249, 2,252, 2,308, 2,362, 2,383 and 2,402.

[Text]

DREE—POTS AND PANS FACTORY IN MONTMAGNY

Question No. 2,249—**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):**

1. Has the Department of Regional Economic Expansion received an application for subsidies from a French company wishing to open a pots and pans factory in Montmagny and, if so, was the application made by "Creuset"?
2. Has the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce been in contact with one or more companies regarding the opening of new industries in Montmagny and the surrounding area and, if so (a) what are the names of the companies (b) how far have negotiations progressed?

Mr. Ralph E. Goodale (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Departments of Regional Economic Expansion and Industry, Trade and Commerce as follows: 1. (a) Yes. (b) Yes.

2. There have been no contacts with companies regarding the opening of new industries in Montmagny and surrounding area.

QUEBEC UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION

Question No. 2,252—**Mr. Fortin:**

1. Who was responsible for the approval of the expenses for the Special Inquiry Division of the Quebec Unemployment Insurance Commission?
2. Did Mr. Gabriel Béland, then general manager of the UIC in Quebec, refuse to continue the division and, if so, on what date?
3. Were fires started in hotel rooms at the (a) Queen Elizabeth (b) Ritz Hotel rented by the SID in Montreal and, if so, are the circumstances surrounding the origin of the fires related to Mr. Béland's decision?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):
1. When the SID was set up in 1973, the Chief of Benefit Control approved the expenses for the officers of this Division in Quebec.

2. No.

3. (a) No. (b) No.