

Petitions

Indeed, this morning, in keeping with the traditions the strict procedures of the House, I made that available to both critics, with a handwritten note stating that this was the material I was able to give them.

It is impossible for me to give them the Bill before it is tabled in the House and when I have lock-ups in the rest of the city.

As always, I appreciate the comments of my hon. friend, but I say to him that I do not accept any suggestion that this Minister or the Government has not observed both the spirit and the technical aspects of the traditions and procedures of the House. I sent a letter to the critic of the Official Opposition and the critic of the New Democratic Party with all the materials save and except the actual Bill which, of course, I am not allowed to do. As I said to the critic this morning, I hope we will be able to proceed with this historic Bill in a way which would at least match the sense of expansiveness and future that this Bill itself engenders. I think it will be unfortunate if my hon. friend wishes to bog this down unnecessarily.

Mr. Gauthier: I am not bogging it down. I am asking a question of the Minister. I think that is unfair.

Mr. Speaker: It seems to the Chair that the Bill which was introduced has, at least in principle, support on both sides of the Chamber. Unless any Hon. Member feels a terribly burning urge to make further comment, perhaps the Chair could settle this matter by reminding Hon. Members of Standing Order 107(2) which states:

A motion for leave to introduce a bill shall be decided without debate or amendment, provided that any Member moving for such leave may be permitted to give a succinct explanation of the provisions of the said bill.

The Hon. Minister said that he had an indication that he had some 60 seconds. I want to assure the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) that the message I sent to the Minister was that he had 30 seconds.

However, it is important to note that it is the case that any Member introducing a Bill can speak succinctly, as the rule states, and I shall be very firm in making sure that it is succinct.

I believe the Hon. Member for York West (Mr. Marchi) is only expressing what Members on both sides of the House, depending on where they sat at different times, have always wished to be the practice. I think the Hon. Minister has given some explanation for that.

Again, as always, I would urge Ministers to do everything possible to be sure that information is given as soon as possible, especially to the opposition critics. I think it was made quite clear by the Minister that he understands that tradition and does in fact honour it.

PETITIONS**MANDATORY INSTALLATION IN CARS OF AIRBAGS AND THREE-POINT SEATBELTS**

Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel—Ahuntsic): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty to present to the House 553 petitions signed by residents of Canada. They are to be added to the 30,735 petitions already tabled.

They are signed by petitioners from Gaspé, Dolbeau, Gull Lake, Kipling, Torguay, Grenfell, North Battleford, Meadow Lake, Simpson, Kindersley, Carnduff, Eston, Lafleche, Quill Lake, Stonehenge, Kenaston, Davidson, Medston, Unity, Weyburn, Swift Current, Richard, Welwyn, Lodewood, Regina and Saskatoon.

These petitioners are calling upon Parliament to institute mandatory airbag restraint systems for the driver of passenger cars and are calling for the installation of three point adjustable lap-shoulder seatbelts for rear passengers.

[*Translation*]

OPPOSITION TO TAX ON FOOD

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, it is also my duty to table in the House over one hundred petitions from residents of Sackville, Grande-Digne, Cap-Pelé, St. Anthony, Cocagne, Ste-Marie, Fox Creek, Port Elgin, Moncton, Richibucto, St-Charles, St-Joseph, Memramcook, Ste-Anne-de-Kent, Buctouche, and many other communities in my riding.

My petitioners are very concerned about the fact that the Government, which has already introduced twenty-five new taxes or tax increases, is now considering, as part of its tax reform proposals, a Bill that would include a tax on food. They humbly pray Parliament to reject any measure that would have the effect of putting a sales tax on food products.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, Question No. 196 will be answered today.

[*Text*]

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES AND DONATIONS BY TOBACCO COMPANIES

Question No. 196—**Ms. McDonald:**

1. In the past five years, by year, did any tobacco companies claim promotional activities and/or sponsorships as allowable business expenses and, if so (a) in what amounts (b) what amount was claimed for promotional activities and/or sponsorships for (i) amateur sport (ii) professional sport (iii) arts (iv) others?