

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, February 18, 1992

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

PRIVILEGE

PAEDOPHILIA

Mr. Tom Wappel (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of personal privilege.

I read an article in the January 27, 1992 issue of the *Western Report* on the subject of paedophilia and incest. In that article certain so-called academics offered their views that incest and paedophilia were perfectly acceptable.

Its contents so disturbed me that I felt compelled to bring it to the attention of members of Parliament and senators as I have done in the past in relation to other issues. The next day I wrote a short letter and attached a copy of the article in question. I asked members to read and reflect on its contents; no more, no less.

In the intervening days it has become apparent to me that my letter has been misinterpreted by some. Meanings have been attributed to the letter which I did not intend. I regret that I may have in some way offended some members and senators or members of the public. I am dismayed that I was not able to articulate myself in a manner which was clear to my fellow parliamentarians.

I did not state, I did not intend to state, nor did I intend to imply that homosexuals are child molesters. I do not equate paedophilia with homosexuality. There are heterosexual paedophiles and there are homosexual paedophiles. In fact the criminal mentioned in the article had assaulted children of both sexes.

• (1010)

In conclusion, let me say that I regret the pain any misunderstanding I may have caused any person in this Parliament or outside it. I feel for the plight of all of those in distress in our society.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to make this statement.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to 30 petitions.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

* * *

PETITIONS

NORTH THOMPSON RIVER

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour and a privilege to present a petition on behalf of a number of residents of Blue River, Birch Island, Clearwater, Vavenby, Little Fort, as well as the rural areas of the North Thompson Valley. This is now the 67th petition I have presented in the House of Commons on this issue.

The petitioners pointed out that Multinational Resources, a company on the Vancouver Exchange, has announced its intentions to dam the North Thompson River at Valemount and divert part of the water into a number of trenches and canals in order to sell the water in the San Diego, California region.

They point out that this is one of the many proposals such as the Nowapa Plant to divert Canadian rivers into the United States and northern Mexico. They are asking