

*Statements by Ministers***CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS**

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Friday, November 1, 1985, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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FOOD AND DRUGS ACT**TABLING OF PROCEDURES FOR THE SURVEILLANCE OF IMPORTED WINES**

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 47(2), I am pleased to table in both official languages a document entitled *Procedures for the Surveillance of Imported Wines*. Included is a list of the 10 Italian wines which have been withdrawn.

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PERMANENT AND PROVISIONAL STANDING ORDERS**NOTICE OF MOTIONS RESPECTING REGISTER OF FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, it was Edmund Burke, in a speech to the electors of Bristol in 1774, who said:

It ought to be the happiness and glory of a representative to live in the strictest union, the closest correspondence, and the most unreserved communication with his constituents... It is his duty to sacrifice his repose, his pleasures, his satisfaction to theirs; and above all, and in all cases, to prefer their interests to his own.

That principle has not changed since 1774. It remains as true today as the day Burke gave voice to this belief. We who serve in this place were not elected to serve our own interests, nor indeed any interests which run contrary to, or causes us to lose sight of, the interests, both individual and collective, of our constituents. That is not to say that in the interest of ensuring greater representation we must sacrifice the value of leadership and independent judgment. It is to say that when Members rise to speak or vote in this Chamber, the people of Canada must be confident that Members are acting in good conscience and in the larger interests of our land.

It is for that reason that I have today given notice of two motions which are directed at ensuring that Members' interests are declared. In these motions the Government proposes that the Standing orders be amended immediately to provide for a public Register of Foreign Travel by Members of Parliament, and that the Standing Committee on Management and Members' Services be instructed to consider and report on the feasibility of extending the register to include, in the public disclosure of Members' other interests, the categories of interest that might be included in such a register.

[Translation]

For some time, the public, the media and Members of this House have been concerned about the fact that accepting trips abroad gives at least the impression of a potential conflict of interest. Mr. Speaker, no one would claim that all these trips are taken with no useful purpose. In an international community that is becoming increasingly complex, it is important that legislators have a thorough knowledge of the way of life and aspirations of people in other countries.

[English]

Recognizing this need for the exchange of information and views, the Government is calling not for an end to foreign travel but for the public disclosure of travel when the cost is not borne by the Member personally, the House of Commons, recognized parliamentary associations, the Members' Party or the Government of Canada. We believe that the people of Canada have a right to know if a Member of Parliament has accepted travel at the expense of foreign Governments or interests. Furthermore, we are convinced that the principle of declaring interests is of merit. To that end, we believe that an honest attempt should be made to establish a registry of Members' interests in order to permit the interests of the public to be served. At the same time we must attempt to ensure that the right of Members to retain a private life beyond the walls of this House is not violated. As Thomas Jefferson said:

When a man assumes a public trust, he should consider himself as public property.

Ms. Copps: A man?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Thomas Jefferson said that, and that was before the Progressive Conservative Government of 1984 and its outstanding record on women's rights.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: There is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that with the responsibilities of public office comes the burden of public scrutiny. A Member's personal interest must be subsumed to those of the public good. To date, the responsibility has largely rested with individual Members to ensure that their actions as Members are above suspicion and beyond reproach. The Government believes it is important that there be no shadow of doubt cast on the ability of a Member of Parliament to represent adequately the views and interests of his or her constituents and the better interests of the nation as a whole.

[Translation]

The step we are taking today, and which we hope will receive the support of the opposition parties, is a logical extension of reforms we have already initiated.

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that on September 9, the Prime Minister rose in the House to announce a series of measures dealing with a code of ethics for the public sector.

[English]

That package included a new conflict of interest post-employment code for public office holders, instructions to