

Speaker's Ruling

33 members of Parliament who understand very well as the people of the greater Toronto area understand very well what Pearson was all about. We did not need an ethics counsellor to tell us that.

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TRADE

Mr. Leonard Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of International Trade.

Over the past 25 years more than 1.5 billion disposable plastic lighters have been imported into Canada from the Orient. If laid end to end that is enough to circle the world three times. These cannot be recycled and Canadian taxpayers have to pay the cost of putting them into landfill sites.

The Eddy Match subsidiary, Canadian Splint, is closing and 56 people in the Pembroke area will be losing their jobs. No more wooden matches are made in Canada as a result of this unfair competition.

What action is the government going to take to stop this flooding of the Canadian market and the destruction of Canadian jobs and the environment?

Hon. Roy MacLaren (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. It reflects his ongoing concern about environmental issues in our country, particularly the question of how best to dispose of unrecyclable materials, those materials which do not lend themselves readily to recycling.

I want to salute the member for drawing to our attention this question which has been of concern to the government as it addresses in the environmental arena such concerns as he has raised today. I only add that it is not a matter primarily of trade policy but rather a matter of environmental policy as we address these questions.

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PRESENCE IN GALLERY

The Speaker: My colleagues, I would like to draw the attention of hon. members to the presence in the gallery of His Excellency Dr. Carlos Saul Menem, President of the Argentine Republic.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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POINT OF ORDER

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT—SPEAKER'S RULING

The Speaker: I am now prepared to rule on the point of order raised by the hon. member for Prince George—Bulkley Valley

on Friday, June 17, 1994. It concerns the appointment of the hon. member for Yukon as an associate member of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development during the committee's consideration of Bill C-33, the Yukon First Nation's land claim settlement act, and Bill C-34, an act respecting self-government for First Nations in the Yukon Territory.

At this time I would also like to thank the hon. members for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, Kamloops, Mississauga South, Roberval, and The Battlefords—Meadow Lake for their valuable contributions to this discussion.

[Translation]

As was pointed out, Speakers have always been hesitant to interfere in the proceedings of committees of the House.

• (1505)

However, as Speaker Fraser explained in a ruling on March 26, 1990 at page 9756 of the *Debates*:

The Speaker has often informed the House that matters and procedural issues that arise in committee ought to be settled in committee unless the committee reports them first to the House. I have, however, said to the House that this practice was not an absolute one and that in very serious and special circumstances the Speaker may have to pronounce on a committee matter without the committee having reported to the House.

[English]

In the matter now before us I must also conclude that this is serious enough to require the intervention of the Chair because it concerns a fundamental right which belongs to the House and not to a committee, namely the right to establish the membership of a committee. Furthermore, the committee has reported to the House on the said bills and the proceedings of the committee are now before the House.

Let me now address the concerns raised by the hon. member for Prince George—Bulkley Valley.

First, the hon. member, citing Standing Order 114(2)(c), argued that since the hon. member for Yukon was not an associate member of the committee she could not be appointed a substitute member. Second, the hon. member noted that he had raised objection to the acceptance of the member for Yukon as an associate member but that this objection had been dismissed by the chair of the committee. Third, the member argued that a breach of the standing orders had occurred and that the remedy to deal with this breach of the rules was not to be found inside the committee.

Finally the hon. member requested that the Speaker take certain actions specifically. He asked that the reports of the committee concerning the legislation presented on Friday, June 17, 1994 be ruled out of order and that the committee therefore be required to reconduct the clause by clause examination of the bills in question. Arguing that the chair of the committee had knowingly allowed the rules of the House to be broken, he also demanded that the current chair of the committee resign and that