

*Routine Proceedings*

care problem that I believe we had found a way to address but now that way is being undermined by the government's plan.

• (1050)

**Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk):** Mr. Speaker, I know we allowed unanimous consent to allow the leader to give a statement. I am wondering if there might be unanimous consent for me to also give a brief statement.

**The Speaker:** Of course the Chair is always in the hands of the House. Unanimous consent has been sought by the member for Haldimand—Norfolk to intervene in a minister's statement. Is there unanimous consent?

**An hon. member:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speller:** Mr. Speaker, I will be brief. I want to thank hon. members on all sides of the House. Many members realize the work I have put into this issue over the past number of years.

My riding has the majority of the tobacco farmers in the country. They are farmers who are looking very intently at this policy. They tried for a number of years to push the previous government actually to crack down on this issue.

I also have the Six Nations Reserve in my riding, which is the largest native reserve in the country, one whose communities have been fraught with a number of smugglers in this country.

In my riding alone I have 200 smoke huts on the reserve. I have had many people including the band council and most people on the Six Nations say: "Mr. Speller, would you please do something about this problem. This problem is hurting our community. We are getting a bad name across this country because people are blaming this problem on natives". I was glad that the Prime Minister today pointed out that 95 per cent of this problem is organized crime and it is not with natives in the country.

I was also pleased to learn that the Solicitor General had sought to have the head of the RCMP to sit down with my community of the Six Nations and discuss ways in which this problem could be resolved. I commend the Solicitor General for that.

In terms of my tobacco farmers who have a large concern with this because of the problems that they have been having in the tobacco communities and the surrounding infrastructure, we have a number of people within my community and the surrounding ridings who consider this to be a very important issue. I know they will be pleased today to learn that the government has finally taken the initiative to come forward and has given a commitment to work with these communities in order to resolve the problems of adjustment that may occur because of some of the policies that have come forward today.

**Hon. Fernand Robichaud (Secretary of State (Parliamentary Affairs)):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to seek unanimous consent to permit the Minister of Human Resources Development to introduce a bill to provide for the maintenance of west coast operations.

**The Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**The Speaker:** Agreed and so ordered.

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**WEST COAST PORTS OPERATIONS ACT, 1994**

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-10, an act to provide for the maintenance of west coast port operations.

(Motions deemed adopted, bill read the first time and printed.)

• (1055)

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, on the matter that we just agreed to in terms of enabling the legislation to be introduced at first reading, is my understanding correct that the debate on this legislation will not occur until after Question Period this afternoon?

**Mr. Milliken:** Mr. Speaker, it is my expectation that the debate on Bill C-3, which is scheduled to start this morning, will occupy all of the time until Question Period and so the debate on this bill will not start until later.

Of course there will be discussions with the other parties to accommodate everyone to ensure that we have a suitable time for the commencement of the debate. I am sure this will not happen until after Question Period.

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**NATIONAL SPORT ACT**

**Mr. Nelson Riis (Kamloops)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-212, an act to recognize hockey as a national sport.

He said: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to join my colleague from Winnipeg Transcona to introduce a bill entitled an act to recognize hockey as a national sport. We all recognize that no sport has ever been designated by the Parliament of Canada as our official national sport. I think we would all have to agree that if there is anything that is as Canadian as Canadian can be it is Mounties, beavers, maple syrup and perhaps hockey as a sport.

I would also urge colleagues from all sides of the House to feel free to second this motion if they wish to be part of the process. Hopefully one day soon we will declare hockey as our official sport here in Canada.