

BRITISH COLUMBIA—PUBLICATION OF  
NAMES OF WELFARE RECIPIENTS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the minister of Indian affairs. Did the Indian affairs branch in British Columbia recently publish and distribute the names of Indian recipients of welfare in that province?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I know nothing about this problem; I shall look into it and report to the house tomorrow.

[English]

## HEALTH AND WELFARE

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF  
CIGARETTE ADVERTISING

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to bring a question to the attention of the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare in view of a statement issued today by the department to the effect that the lung cancer epidemic is worsening in Canada. The statement also suggested that most lung cancer deaths are attributable to cigarette smoking. Could this whole matter of cigarette advertising be referred to the standing committee on health and welfare?

[Translation]

**Mr. Rosaire Gendron (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I shall take this question as notice and advise the minister accordingly.

[English]

SPRINGHILL, N.S.—POLLUTION FROM FIRE IN  
MINE DUMP

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question which should be directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that he is out of the country I will direct it to the Prime Minister. What action does the government intend to take to either eliminate or curtail a fire raging in a mine dump in the town of Springfield which now covers over 50 acres and is estimated to be 40 feet in depth? This is polluting the whole town and is a very serious matter for the 8,000 people who live there.

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## Inquiries of the Ministry

**Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** As the hon. member has stated, Mr. Speaker, the minister is on a mission to South America. Perhaps the question can be answered on a day which is one assigned to departmental affairs of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster):** Mr. Speaker, in connection with this roster business does the Prime Minister know that four ministers who should be here today are absent? I refer to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the President of the Treasury Board, the minister for Indian affairs has just arrived; the Minister of National Health and Welfare and the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Will the Prime Minister explain how his system is working to the great advantage he suggests when ministers are not even here when they should be?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I will explain again that the system does not require the physical presence of the ministers.

**Mr. Fairweather:** Does the government require their physical presence?

**Mr. Trudeau:** No, the government does not require their physical presence either.

**An hon. Member:** Then get rid of them.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Here we go again, Mr. Speaker. On certain days certain departmental areas will be answered by the minister or by the acting minister. In looking at the names mentioned by the hon. member in his question, I should state that the President of the Treasury Board is at the federal-provincial conference now taking place.

**An hon. Member:** Who is the acting minister?

**Mr. Trudeau:** His acting minister is the Postmaster General, who will be delighted to answer any questions that come within his concern. The Minister of National Health and Welfare is also attending a federal-provincial conference, and his parliamentary secretary has just indicated that he is answering for him. The Minister of Veterans Affairs is unfortunately ill. I see that quite a few members of the opposition are apparently ill as well.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.