

*Hazardous Substances*

I should also like to draw the attention of the house to the fact that government policies are starting to bear fruit in this area. In the issue of the *Globe and Mail* for February 21 under the heading "Problem sector showing gains" there is an article which contains the following information:

During the past four months the rate of unemployment has dropped steadily from 5.1 per cent of the labour force in October to 4.3 per cent in January, after adjustment for seasonal factors. The rise in the consumer price index, on a year-to-year basis, declined during the same period from 4.2 per cent to 3.8 per cent.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Gillespie:** Mr. Speaker, I say that the government has accepted its responsibility and, further, that its policies are bearing fruit.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hour set aside for the consideration of private members' business has now expired. I now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS****HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES****PROHIBITION OF ADVERTISING, SALE AND IMPORTATION**

The house resumed consideration of the motion (Mr. Basford) for second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs of Bill S-26, to prohibit the advertising, sale and importation of hazardous products.

**Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Mr. Speaker, before the adjournment at six o'clock I was discussing hazardous products, in particular the inflammability of garments. Let me point out briefly that this is not the only problem which this bill is meant to cover. There are a great many other aspects to it, poisoning notably among them. In view of the fact we are perhaps a little short of time I will leave it to other members to discuss these other aspects, and move on to the Bill itself.

The actual wording of Bill S-26 in its present form is not acceptable to me, and it is my hope that at the committee stage and on third reading other members will consider seriously the points I will be bringing forward this evening. I am not a member of the committee and thus I ask for your indulgence in allowing me to mention at this time the specific provisions of this bill to which I take exception.

Clause 8, subclause (3) would require that any amendment made by the Governor In Council to the schedule of this bill must be placed before this house within two years of it being brought forward as an order in council. My personal view is that this would result in this bill being amended every year, for no minister could risk leaving these amendments to the final year. Keeping in mind the amount of legislation the government house leader wishes us to consider this year, would place an intolerable burden on this house and result in a serious uncertainty in the law. For example, as a result of an election or delay in passing legislation we may well be unable to deal with this specific amending legislation, and the various hazardous substances which the Governor In Council had decided should not be placed on the market would once more become available for sale in Canada. This is what I mean by uncertain law.

If you look at subsection 3 of section 8 sir, you will see that the Governor In Council is prohibited from bringing back any of these particular items which had been dropped from the list as a result of not being brought before Parliament. This would mean considerable uncertainty which would, I regret to say, result in hazardous products being placed on the market from time to time with attendant danger to the consumers, particularly children.

The essence of this legislation in my mind should be to allow the minister or the Governor In Council to act with speed. We do not want to have a dangerous toy sold in Canada for a period of time before something can be done about it, nor do we want this toy to come back on the market through too rigid legislation. We want to have something done quickly. A subsection such as subsection (3) of section 8 would nullify the intent of this legislation.

Let me give notice that if this measure goes to the committee and I am unable to have my views adopted there, I will propose an amendment to this house at the third reading