

Introduction of Bills

● (1510)

[English]

NARCOTIC CONTROL ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING THERAPEUTIC USE OF HEROIN

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-221, to amend the Narcotic Control Act (therapeutic use of heroin).

Mr. Speaker, this is exactly the same Bill that was presented on April 29, 1983 by the late Member for Nepean-Carleton. At that time, as reported at page 24994 of *Hansard*, when introducing the Bill he said:

Madam Speaker, the purpose of the Bill is to permit designated physicians in defined hospitals, particularly in cancer clinics, to prescribe heroin to alleviate pain and to provide against diversion of heroin for improper purposes and to permit a public debate and decision on this important question.

Ironically, Mr. Speaker, when the Hon. Member introduced the Bill he was in reasonably good health. Shortly afterwards he was diagnosed as having cancer and subsequently he died. I hope the House will agree eventually to allow the subject matter of the Bill to go to committee where the evidence and the expert witnesses can be heard.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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EXCISE TAX ACT

On the Order: Introduction of Bills:

February 8, 1984—Mr. Lambert—Bill intituled: "An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act (annual adjustments)".

Mr. Speaker: Order. Before proposing the motion for leave to introduce the Bill entitled an Act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act (annual adjustments) of the Hon. Member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert), the Chair ought to enter a caveat as to the procedural acceptability of the Bill which purports to reduce duties. However, I am prepared to hear argument from the Hon. Member and take the matter under advisement before rendering a final decision on the question at a later date convenient to the Hon. Member and the Chair.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, the point was raised by a Table officer, it was replied to, and the simple answer is: Since when is an excise tax a duty?

Mr. Speaker: Nevertheless, the Chair stands by the comments that have been entered on the record. The Chair will come back to this matter before proceeding with the Bill. The Chair still has reservations concerning it.

COMMUNICATIONS AND CULTURE

REFERENCE OF SEXUALLY ABUSIVE BROADCASTING MATERIAL TO STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I think you will find there is unanimous consent that a motion be put to the following effect:

That the subject matter of sexually abusive television programming be referred to the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture.

I think if you seek unanimous consent you will find that there is a disposition that the motion be put.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Yes, Mr. Speaker. It was the intention of the Hon. Member for Hamilton-Wentworth (Mr. Scott) to raise that as a point of order today, but now that the step has been taken that will not be necessary. Of course, we consent.

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I believe the wording that was understood was "sexually abusive broadcasting", which is more all-encompassing. If that could be understood?

Mr. Evans: Mr. Speaker, it would be acceptable to change the words "television programming" to "broadcasting", if that is agreeable to Members of the Opposition.

Mr. Nielsen: It is the same thing.

Mr. Speaker: Is there consent for the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council to present the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Maltais:

That the subject matter of sexually abusive broadcasting be referred to the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture.

Motion (Mr. Evans) agreed to.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 93, 150, 441, 442, 461, 517, 563 and 576.