

• (2:30 p.m.)

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

AMENDMENT RESPECTING PLACING OF BETS BY ONE PERSON FOR ANOTHER

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-197, to amend the Criminal Code.

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

CANADA CORPORATIONS ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING NEW AND CONTINUED COMPANIES, INTER-INSURANCE CONTRACTS, AND OTHER SUBJECTS

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-198, to amend the Canada Corporations Act and other statutory provisions related to the subject matter of certain of those amendments.

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

PLANT NOISE ABATEMENT ACT

MEASURE SETTING OUT MAXIMUM NOISE LEVELS

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-199, respecting noise in factories.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Mather: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to combat a major health hazard in industry by requiring that the noise levels in establishments having contracts with the government of Canada shall be at a maximum of 85 decibels. The noise level at 85 decibels is said by health experts to be such that one can hardly hear oneself talk. I might point out that similar legislation to this was enacted earlier this week in the United States and is now law in that country.

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

PRIVILEGE

MR. SKOBERG—REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO RAILWAY SAFETY

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I understand that the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Skoberg) has a question of privilege that he wants to bring to the attention of the house at this time. Unfortunately, because we moved a

Inquiries of the Ministry

little too fast he was not given an opportunity to do so at the opening of the house. Perhaps hon. members might want to allow the hon. member for Moose Jaw to indicate to the house at this time what is the question of privilege that he desires to raise.

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to rise on a question of privilege having to do with the failure of the government to respond to my appeals for a public inquiry into the alarming series of railway mishaps.

I originally brought the matter of rail safety and mishaps to the attention of the minister of transport on January 8, and to date there has not been any action on the part of the government to initiate or establish a public inquiry into the increasing number of mishaps on the railways. As a member of parliament who has some experience in railway operations, and inasmuch as I have been attempting, without avail, to have a public inquiry conducted, and particularly in view of the collision last night in which two members of a crew lost their lives and many passengers were injured, could I not, through you, Mr. Speaker, implore the government immediately to set up a public inquiry with terms of reference broad enough to conduct a meaningful investigation into the causes of such mishaps, and the safety of all rail operations?

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps it should not be necessary for the Chair to make a ruling on the point raised by the hon. member. He suspects, I would think, that this is not really a question of privilege. The hon. member has at most a grievance, perhaps a question that he might want to pose during the question period. I would not think there was a true question of privilege in any event since no motion was proposed by the hon. member. I suggest we go on to the business of the house at this time in our proceedings, which is that of oral questions.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

NATIONAL PARKS

GRANTS OF LAND IN PERPETUITY

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, following up an answer that he gave me yesterday when he stated that the policy with regard to