

made sure that the security of Winnipeg's water supply is not tampered with or compromised in any way.

With regard to the application the same condition applies. We do not want to have arsenic in the water supply. From our perspective, no approval should be given until every assurance has been given that the water supply is in fact safe.

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PRIVILEGE

RETRACTION OF REMARKS DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. During the course of Question Period I think an unfortunate slur was directed, perhaps inadvertently, at the Minister of State for Transport (Mrs. Martin), and I am sure without any foundation whatsoever, by the Hon. Member for Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte (Mr. Tobin).

As a distinguished parliamentarian, and I am sure in keeping with the spirit of the traditions and dignity of the House, perhaps the Hon. Member may wish to reconsider, withdraw, and apologize to the Hon. Minister and to the House.

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte): Mr. Speaker, I invite the submission of the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski). I would not want to infer in any way, shape or form that the Minister was not alert, serious and all the other things Ministers should be in attending her conference out of the country.

I was using some imagery to suggest that the matter which I thought should have been paid attention to was not. If the Minister took any insult, I want to assure her that none was meant.

ALLEGED REMARKS DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, during Question Period while my colleague the Hon. Member for Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte (Mr. Tobin) was making submissions, the Minister of National Defence (Mr. McKnight) uttered some very profane words, directed at my colleague.

Petitions

In the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you ask the Minister of National Defence to withdraw and apologize for the profane comments he made.

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, if anything that was said during the heat of Question Period offended my colleagues opposite, I withdraw it, in the tradition of the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I thank all Members.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITIONS

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION

Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and duty to present a petition to the House, pursuant to Standing Order 36.

The petitioners call upon the Government to take whatever measures are necessary to ensure that sexual orientation is a prohibited ground of discrimination.

They also call upon the Government to introduce an amendment to the Canadian Human Rights Act to protect persons from discrimination due to their sexual orientation.

MARKETING OF OATS AND BARLEY

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions to present to the House which have been duly certified.

The first petition calls upon the House of Commons to instruct the Government not to sign the Order in Council which would remove oats from the marketing jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board and to place oats and barley under the Wheat Board Act in such a manner that in future farm organizations and Parliament must be consulted before such changes are made in the marketing of these products.

VIA RAIL SERVICES

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, the second petition is from residents of the Province of Saskatchewan.

The petitioners note that it was the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada which stated that the federal Government has the responsibility to ensure that rail passenger services in Canada be retained, modernized, and expanded as an important part of our national transportation system.

Therefore, they call upon the Government of Canada to live up to its original pledge to support VIA Rail, to