

Business of the House

A review of present measures is urgently needed in order to fight the damages caused by the non-medical use of drugs, especially by college and university students. The use of barbiturates has tripled, as has that of hallucinatory drugs other than LSD, while it has more than doubled in the case of—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will remind the hon. member that he is clearly out of order when he tries to make a long speech in support of a motion under Standing Order 43. I suggest that even if hon. members are unhappy about the events of the day, they should still make an effort to respect the spirit of the rules of this House.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I always respect your suggestions, I will limit my explanations forthwith to the terms of Standing Order 43. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Beaudoin):

That this House give immediate consideration to the problem of increase in drug abuse in order to urge the Minister of National Health and Welfare to take the necessary steps, jointly with the provincial health ministers, to eliminate this plague.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the motion. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: The motion cannot be put, as there is not unanimous consent.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

I would like Mr. Speaker, to call through you, the attention of the House to the fact that systematic use is being made this afternoon of Standing Order 43 which provides that:

A motion may, in case of urgent and pressing necessity previously explained by the mover—

and it ends as follows:

—be made by unanimous consent of the House—

I think this Standing Order has been abused and to this moment not one hon. member who has presented a motion under this rule has been able to prove its urgency. To prevent the House from wasting valuable time I would like you, Mr. Speaker, to explain this Standing Order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Sainte-Marie will appreciate, as I stated a moment ago, that on many occasions I have given my own interpretation of this Standing Order and I have never interpreted it as being a new application of Standing Order 26 which, as the House is aware, was changed in 1968. Besides, Order 43 which dates back to 1867, should allow hon. members to submit urgent motions without any previous notice as normally acquired.

It is only under such extreme circumstances that hon. members should resort to Standing Order 43. This is the way I have always interpreted it.

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

• (2030)

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. What is happening here tonight is obvious and results from the government's own ineptness earlier in the day. Rather than prolonging the agony involved in these delays, may I suggest to the acting government House leader that, if he could guarantee the Social Credit party a full day's debate, we could get on with the business of the day.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: If he would do that, Sir, we could get on with the business of the day. It is very simple. If the government would simply admit that they goofed and give the House a guarantee, now, that the whole of Monday will be set aside for the motion of the Creditiste party, our difficulties will be solved and we will be able to get on with the business of the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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TRANSPORT

SUGGESTION GOVERNMENT INCREASE PURCHASES OF RAILWAY CARS—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I add further to the sadness of this day—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Benjamin: —by asking for the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion under Standing Order 43 on a matter which is urgent and pressing and which will help the government to be consistent. I therefore ask the unanimous consent to move, seconded by the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom):

That this House urges the government to pursue consistently its policy of purchasing railway cars for the transportation of wheat, thus relieving the railway companies of their legal responsibilities; by purchasing sufficient numbers of cars to transport cattle from Western Canada to eastern markets, as well as by purchasing sufficient numbers of refrigerator cars to handle potato movements from the Maritimes and snow from the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has very serious doubts about what is going on. There is, to my way of thinking, a rather unfortunate situation before us at the moment and I do not think that it should be allowed to continue.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure if hon. members really want to present motions under Standing Order 43 all evening. I doubt if that is what hon. members want or if they want to place the House in that position. In any event, I am exercising all the patience at my command, because that is my duty and that is what hon. members expect of me.