

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) rising on the same point of order?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): First, Mr. Speaker, I should like to indicate our agreement with the House order which was proposed.

Mr. Hees: It is just the way you wrote it, Stanley.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I hope I am just as successful when I ask when we will see the bill to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I must say I cannot thank the hon. member for giving me notice of that question! I cannot tell my hon. friend when he will see it but I can assure him that he will see it in the near future. We are working on it.

Mr. Bell: How many shopping lists have you got?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Will we get it before budget day?

Mr. Hees: Otherwise there will be trouble!

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult to do serious business with the distractions provided by the hon. gentlemen opposite. I cannot give that assurance, but my hon. friend will see it in a form that will make it irresistible to him.

An hon. Member: Allan in wonderland!

Mr. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege concerns the publication of this booklet "Canada's New Capital" by the National Capital Commission. I said earlier that I thought there was a leak from this bulletin. I see here that part of the address of this commission contains the proposed new name for the capital of Canada, namely 48 Rideau Street, Ottawa-Hull. Would the Minister of State or the Postmaster General wish to comment on that?

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINANTS ACT

MEASURE TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT FROM CONTAMINATING SUBSTANCES

The House resumed, from Wednesday, April 24, consideration of the motion of Mr. Davis that Bill C-3, to protect human health and the environment from the release of substances that contaminate the environment, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe the item before the House now is the item standing in the name of the hon. Minister of the Environment (Mr. Davis). The point of order which was raised by the hon. President of the Privy

Environmental Contamination

Council (Mr. MacEachen) related to the next order of business. I wonder whether it is the wish of the House that that order be passed immediately in respect of the second item of business. Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The understanding of the Chair was that there would be two speakers from each party in the House or a maximum of two speakers for each party and that the bill be referred to a committee of the whole. Is this agreed and so ordered?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my remarks were almost completed at six o'clock last night. I had pointed out to the minister some of the concerns that we on this side of the House have about the bill. I had pointed out to the minister, as had colleagues on this side of the House, that we welcome the measure but that we would want to subject the bill to much closer scrutiny when it gets to committee. I have pointed out that we would much rather have had some official guidelines which other levels of governments, departments of government and industry could follow. We would have liked to see some moneys in the bill. The minister went to great lengths to explain that the onus would be on industry, on the offenders, rather than on the government and the people to ensure that there is no environmental damage or damage to human life as a result of pollution and industrial discharge. He said that industries must pay. We all agree, Mr. Speaker. That is not a difficult idea to sell these days, if we look at the federal budget. The question is, for what does industry have to pay?

There is a certain amount of uncertainty about this bill because the minister introduces all kinds of new problems. We have gone a step further now. We used to say, "Don't do like we do, do like we say". Now, we have altered that to "Do as we might say". The bill introduces all kinds of new things that could happen.

The disclosure section of the bill refers to the minister or the Minister of National Health and Welfare having reason to believe that a substance is being or will be released into the environment. This could be a strange substance, Mr. Speaker, something that we do not know about today, that could have been released into the environment or that might be released in the future. The clause provides that the minister may cause an order to be published in the *Canada Gazette* and that he may send written notice to those engaged in the activity. But, Mr. Speaker, how is the minister going to find out about the offence in order to have it published in the *Canada Gazette* or to send a letter? He would have to send out an army of witch hunters, such as we have in other departments of government. They would have to report to him that something is about to happen that might damage the environment or human health. There is a great feeling of uncertainty as a result of this bill. I am sure that my colleagues in the opposition and, I hope in the government, would like to rectify some of these matters when the bill is in committee.

I am not fishing in the dark, Mr. Speaker. I should like to recite a situation in which I was involved. In this case