

*Speaker's Ruling*

**Mr. Heap:** Mr. Speaker, the point I would like to bring out—and I would ask the Minister whether he would agree—is that the great majority, the huge majority of the permits issued were issued according to law, according to standards which the officials are required to implement, not according to discretionary judgment by the Minister.

**Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)):** Mr. Speaker, we do not have a breakdown. We have the sections of the Act under which admissions have been accepted. I would like to accept the suggestion of my hon. friend, and I will be able to provide that kind of statistic to him, so that all Members of Parliament will be able to monitor those who are granted permission under either refugee settlements, family unification, national interest, or whatever other category—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Hon. Member for Leeds—Grenville.

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● (1510)

**FOOD AND DRUGS**

## IRRADIATED FOOD REGULATIONS

**Mrs. Jennifer Cossitt (Leeds—Grenville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is consideration being given to amending the food and drug regulations to classify irradiated foods as a process rather than an additive, and would this mean that further testing and labelling of such foods would no longer be required? Can the Minister assure the House that Canadians will have all information available to them to make an informed choice as to whether or not they wish to consume such foods?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, irradiation is used now in a number of jurisdictions. It is used in Canada, and research has taken place over at least three decades in Canada. As well, the World Health Organization as a UN agency back in 1981 also declared that irradiated food was entirely safe.

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**EXCISE TAX ACT**

## RULING DECLARING PROCEEDINGS NULL AND VOID

**Mr. Speaker:** Earlier this morning under Routine Proceedings, a Government Bill to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act was introduced and given first reading. As this Bill is based on a Ways and Means motion which Hon. Members who were watching the procedure this morning might notice

has not yet been concurred in by this House, I regret to have to advise that this morning's proceedings in relation to the Bill are null and void and the Bill will remain on the Order Paper for reintroduction.

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**PRIVILEGE**

## UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a Question of Privilege of which I have given you notice. It concerns the use by the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) of the word crook while questions were being answered this afternoon in connection with matters in Prince Rupert. I submit that it is unparliamentary to use the word crook. In any event, apart from the use of the word crook, which your predecessors have ruled to be unparliamentary on previous occasions, Sir, the word was used in such a way that none of us can be sure who the crook is supposed to be. The inference might be that I am the crook. If that is the case, I would like it removed from the record. I would like the Hon. Member to explain whom he is calling a crook. If he is calling me a crook, I would like him to repeat it outside the House where appropriate action can be taken—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Crosbie:** —to uncrook the crookedness. Is the Member perhaps referring to a predecessor of mine? Is it the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) who is a crook or is it a Minister of Transport of recent years of 1981—perhaps the hon. gentleman opposite? Who is the crook in this case? In any event, Mr. Speaker, let all those who are prepared to be called crooks arise—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Ouellet:** There is only one standing up, you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Crosbie:** Could this matter be cleared up, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Speaker, as you know I had already sent you notice of my intention to withdraw the reference. Since the Minister has taken a moment, I think I might also point out exactly what happened.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Fulton:** I have withdrawn it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.