

to call for the resignation of the member for Mississauga South as the chairman of the finance committee, isn't it?

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should have kept reading his history because the chairman was reappointed immediately thereafter.

Surely the hon. member, being a senior parliamentarian and having been around here for some 22 years now, recognizes that precedents are what guide our operation. He must recognize that there must be some mechanism ultimately to put questions to a vote. This mechanism was available by way of precedent.

• (1440)

It was not done on the first day of discussion; it did not cut off further debate. There will be several days of debate and discussion before it is reported back to the House. One has to really stretch one's definition of "closure" to consider this anything but a very reasonable decision by a very reasonable chairman.

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, the minister says one would have to stretch the definition. The minister said that the government followed the exact parallel of what happened in the justice committee in 1984. In 1984, the chairman of that committee said: "I will offer my resignation to the committee to avoid the future work of this committee being tainted by the process undertaken in relation to Bill C-9". The chairman of that committee did resign in 1984.

Why does this government not do the honourable thing and demand right here and now the resignation of the chairman of the finance committee? Demand that he resign.

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, I suspect the New Democrats and other members of this House would in fact raise a point of privilege of some ferocity, given the reforms of Parliament if in fact I were to ask for the resignation of any chairman or interfere with any chairman. He is elected by the committee.

### *Oral Questions*

I ask the hon. member to take advantage of his experience, to think back about what precedents mean, to think back about the reality that at some point in time every legislative body has a right to make a decision. This committee was a legislative body last night deploying a parallel from 1984 to put in place an order that provides ample time for discussion of each and every clause of the GST bill.

After three years of discussion in principle I think that is about as democratic as you can get.

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### THE ENVIRONMENT

**Mr. David Bjornson (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question on the environment and hopefully, in the absence of the minister, somebody from the government will be able to respond. I bring this question forward because there seems to be a lack of information provided by the government and also by the media.

Is there going to be a centre for sustainable development? Can somebody answer that question for me?

**Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, as I think most hon. members of this House know, the Prime Minister, when speaking to the United Nations in September 1988, announced that an international centre for sustainable development would be located in Winnipeg. As the announcement made at Globe 90 in Vancouver on Monday of this week jointly by the Minister of the Environment on behalf of the Government of Canada and the Premier of the Province of Manitoba indicated, that centre is in fact now established.

I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that this is an excellent example of a promise made and a promise kept.

I am also pleased to advise the hon. member that an initial number of Canadians have been appointed to the board of directors and I will name just three. Lloyd McGinnis, a well-known Manitoban with an established record in international development; Dr. Clay Gilson, an agricultural expert; and Jim MacNeill, the Secretary General of the Brundtland commission are three who will serve as members of the board.