

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Jim Edwards (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I think you would find there is unanimous consent in the House to adjourn this debate to accommodate a debate on the Special Economic Measures Act order. If that consent exists, I would then move:

That, notwithstanding any Standing Order, upon the calling of the Special Economic Measures Act order, the Speaker shall put all questions necessary to dispose of the order at no later than 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8, 1992 and that if a recorded division is requested, it shall be deferred until 3 p.m. on Wednesday, December 9, 1992;

That, the time provided for Private Members' Business be from 5.30 to 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8, 1992, after which the Speaker shall adjourn the House until Wednesday, December 9, 1992.

• (1630)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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SPECIAL ECONOMIC MEASURES ACT

REGULATIONS

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre) moved:

That, pursuant to subsection 7(2) of the Special Economic Measures Act (Chapter 17, Statutes of Canada, 1992), the Special Economic Measures (Haïti) Ships Regulations, tabled in this House on September 8, 1992, be amended by adding the following new section:

"6. The government of Canada shall urge every member of the Organization of the American States and the United Nations that has adopted measures similar to those set out in the Regulations to implement and enforce those measures.";

That, pursuant to subsection 7(7) of the same Act, the said amendment to the Regulations be effective on the second day following the day of the vote of concurrence by the Senate; and

That a message be sent to the Senate to inform that House accordingly and to request their concurrence in the same.

Government Orders

He said: The Special Economic Measures Act was passed last year as a way of ensuring that Parliament will have an opportunity from time to time to examine the crucial issue of how economic sanctions programs are affecting the various countries upon which they are being imposed.

An act such as that is only as good as how this Parliament uses it. For that reason, members of our caucus felt it important, especially at this time when there is such major debate in the country concerning our involvement in Somalia and Bosnia, that we use the measures under that act to reopen the question of Haiti and what is happening and, perhaps more important, what is not happening in that poor, desperate country and to ask Canadians and the government to review and re-examine what is happening to the people of Haiti and what Canada might do.

[Translation]

We are very concerned about the crisis in Haiti. Even though the government and the Organization of American States were very active at the beginning of the crisis, it seems we have now forgotten all about Haiti. Human rights are still being violated, the embargo is not respected by all members of the OAS and negotiations between the OAS Commission and the puppet government in Haiti are at a standstill. No progress has been made toward the reinstatement of president Aristide's constitutional government.

[English]

There were certainly without question a number of statements, declarations and resolutions passed about the importance of recognizing and supporting the restoration of constitutional democracy in Haiti. It has been over a year now and the dictatorship continues. In the meantime, the economic embargo was introduced with great fanfare and strong declarations by the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State and other members of the OAS, saying peace would be the measure that would start the return of democracy. Unfortunately, the end result has been the poor people of Haiti are the ones who suffer and the wealthy, the elite, the establishment prosper. If there is an embargo full of holes it is