

*Tributes***THE LATE YURI ANDROPOV,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNION OF
SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I want to say that the Government was saddened to learn of the death of President Yuri Andropov, of the U.S.S.R.

Mr. Andropov devoted his life to his country. His term as President was short. But in that brief period, he made a significant contribution as a man of vision, a man who worked to improve the conditions of life for his people, a man of modesty and dedication.

The Government of Canada extends its sincere condolences to the Government and people of the Soviet Union, and to the family of the late President.

We also take this opportunity to reaffirm Canada's strong desire to work with the Soviet Union to strengthen the bonds of co-operation and friendship which are essential to the future of mankind. This is a time when leaders of all countries must renew their efforts to meet the challenges of peace. President Andropov understood the importance of that high duty, and we are confident his successors will carry his work further. I can assure the House that Canada will pursue its efforts in this essential task.

Mr. Brian Mulroney (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I join with the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in expressing to the Government of the Soviet Union and to the family our condolences on the sad and particularly untimely passing of President Andropov. I had the opportunity earlier this morning to do so in a personal way.

I join with the Prime Minister in his fitting tribute to a most important figure. Particularly at a time of tension and instability, a loss of this dimension is to be profoundly regretted.

I share as well the Prime Minister's view and hope that his successor who emerges from the leadership of the Soviet Union will continue in genuine efforts to do that which we all must do as best we can, particularly from the leadership of such an influential nation, to commit ourselves to the reduction of tensions and to an honorable formula which will allow for the reduction and, hopefully, the elimination of nuclear arms. We convey to the family and his Government our deep condolences.

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues I want to join in the expression of condolence made both by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Mulroney). I think that at the time Mr. Andropov took over office as head of the Government of the Soviet Union, many in the world hoped that this would signal the beginning of a new era, and that this would, in fact, result ultimately in a lessening of tensions. I also think, in looking back, his prolonged illness would not have allowed for the achieving of the goals which he himself had expressed were the goals he had set, or allowed, for the achieving of the wishes and desires of so many people around the world.

● (1115)

Therefore, on behalf of my colleagues I want to join with both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in expressing our regret at his passing, and I ask that our regrets be conveyed both to his family and to the Government of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker: At this point in our proceedings, the House would normally proceed to Oral Questions without statements being made under the provisions of Standing Order 21. What is the disposition of the House?

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I think you will find that there is disposition to go to statements and the usual Question Period following.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, if that is the desire of the Opposition, we can live with it, but we would have preferred to go right away to Question Period.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I think in the spirit of generosity, surely we would accept that if the Government can live with it and both opposition Parties desire that we go to statements, then we should do so.

Mr. Speaker: We will have statements under Standing Order 21 until 11.30 a.m., and then we will have 45 minutes of Question Period.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

WILD LIFE**BRITISH COLUMBIA WOLF POPULATION**

Mr. Lorne Greenaway (Cariboo-Chilcotin): Mr. Speaker, for several weeks I have quietly watched the build up of publicity concerning the wolf population in British Columbia. There has been a campaign by some misguided individuals and groups to discredit B.C. Wildlife Officers and supporters in their efforts to control the wolf population in the Province.

The fact of the matter is that in parts of my constituency of Cariboo-Chilcotin and in that of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Oberle), the wolf population is out of control. People who live in these areas and see firsthand the devastation caused by wolf packs have for some time been warning our provincial Government that effective control measures must be implemented. Provincial Wildlife Conservation Officers are now doing exactly that. It is not a pleasant task, but it is the only alternative to counter the present level of slaughter of valuable wildlife and domestic animals. Certainly predators take the weak and sick, but when wolves reach their present population levels, the kills are indiscriminate, unsustainable, and thus unacceptable.