

Business of the House

also, would seem fairly straightforward. We heard a member on the other side today boast about the fact that one of our former colleagues, Ralph Goodale, had placed one foot in the grave by being made leader of the Saskatchewan Liberal party. I would think that if the Liberals are so proud of their former members, they would give us a list of what they have done to all of them.

● (1510)

The theme song of this government is a very old tune; it is called "Roll Out the Barrel". If it comes to rolling out—

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Collenette: Madam Speaker, the hon. member has asked this question before and I have assured him that I am getting answers. I would like to point out that of the over 2,000 answers we have provided to date, the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville has been the recipient of the greatest proportion. I am sure he would not want to convey the impression that he is ungrateful because today, out of the eight questions answered, five were in the name of the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville.

Mr. Blenkarn: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point or order. I want to draw question No. 588 on the Order Paper to the attention of the parliamentary secretary. I asked this question on April 18, 1980. It concerns the cost of the Metric Commission and its operating expenses in 1979 and since its inception. That should be an easy matter of public record. I would appreciate the parliamentary secretary directing the officials to give us an answer as soon as possible.

Mr. Collenette: Madam Speaker, I will undertake to do that.

Madam Speaker: The questions enumerated by the hon. parliamentary secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Knowles: Madam Speaker, I ask the government House leader's pardon if we are getting up on the same point. There have been some discussions about the length of speeches today. Although I am not completely happy with what we have agreed to, I believe there is an understanding that the speeches for the first part of the debate be under Standing Order 31, which will give the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) unlimited time—that is an awful thought—and would also give the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) unlimited time. It would then give the hon. member for New Westminster-Coquitlam (Miss Jewett) 40 minutes. We understand that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacGuigan) also wishes to speak. Even though he is the

mover of the motion and is not the lead-off speaker, we would be willing to permit him to speak for 40 minutes. Our hope is that after that all speeches could be reduced to 30 minutes, or even to 20 minutes.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, I was wondering whether you would recognize me. It is true that Standing Order 31 notwithstanding, we have agreed that speeches would only last 30 minutes instead of 40 minutes. However, I want to clarify a point following the comments of the House leader of the New Democratic Party. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, even though he is the sponsor of the motion, does not, with due respect, have to speak first. The Chair recognized that last week. He could speak later during the debate for an unlimited period of time. However, we have agreed that he will speak for 40 minutes today.

[English]

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I wish to confirm the discussion and the agreement.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: Order. It will be done as ordered by the House.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS**REPORT OF PARLIAMENTARY TASK FORCE**

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs) moved:

That this House take note of the present state and future prospects of Canada's international relations and endorse the broad thrust of the report of the Parliamentary Task Force on North-South Relations.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, it is obvious to all of us that our world has become unpredictable and unstable. We would also agree that it has become more dangerous. Mankind is living in a state of more or less extended crises. Violence and disorder have become banal. Injustice no longer causes indignation.

This global instability has many causes. There are many more countries in the world community than there used to be, and each is vigorously asserting its own particular needs and ambitions. Economic problems and international disputes have increased in both number and severity. While the superpowers have grown stronger, they often seem to have lost control over events. We have seen international law and economic systems break down more frequently, causing people to believe that things are out of control. There is a generalized condition of crisis expectation.