

address them. But in answering the member for Victoria, it is neither the time nor the place.

I pick up the point that he raised when he said that since coming to the House of Commons he found that there were rare opportunities to address important issues of international affairs. I remember sitting in this very seat just days ago when the Secretary of State for External Affairs wished to make a statement in the House concerning foreign policy and a change in Canadian foreign policy, about which notice had been given to the official critics for the two other parties. Unanimous consent was not provided by the House because his party refused to give it. The Secretary of State for External Affairs had to leave the House and go to a press conference to announce Canadian government policy.

So when the hon. member speaks to me about the rare opportunities to debate foreign affairs issues on the floor of the House of Commons, I think he ought to turn the mirror toward himself and examine his own conscience.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would hate to leave the record as unclear as the hon. member just stated. The matter which he raises with regard to the inability of the Secretary of State for External Affairs to make a statement in the House occurred because the government House leader moved that we proceed to orders of the day, bypassing the opportunity. It was the government which cut off the right of the right hon. member to speak, not the opposition.

An hon. member: The truth comes out.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. parliamentary secretary may complete his remarks.

Mr. Boyer: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. Since this has now got into the recent history of procedural debates and contentions in the House, this effort to stand up and clarify the record, if it is to be a sincere effort to clarify the record then I think the member who just spoke owes it to the House to say that as he described what happened came in the context and as a culmination of several days of deliberate procedural slowdown by his party in the House.

Canadians know when there are issues of substance to be dealt with and they know when procedural ploys are being developed in the House to prevent that. Today, on the third reading of this bill to ratify the Geneva

Protocols, I regret to see that the same thing is happening once again.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being eleven o'clock, the House will now proceed to Statements by Members pursuant to Standing Order 31.

S.O. 31

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the government again of a few facts about the GST which it finds difficult to accept.

The government claims that this tax will be anything but resoundingly opposed by small businessmen is not true. I have spoken to a large number of businessmen in my riding of Prince Edward—Hastings and each has offered nothing but doubts as to whether any form of common sense has been put into the drafting of this legislation.

A good example of the effects the GST will have on small business, as has been demonstrated time and time again to the government, is the cost of upgrading computer software to accommodate this tax. I have heard quotes as high as \$15,000 to upgrade a small businessman's computer. How does the government expect small business to cope with that kind of expense? I plead with it to withdraw the legislation and do something positive.

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• (1100)

CHILD HEALTH

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I would like today to do something I am not accustomed to doing, and that is to congratulate the Prime Minister on his initiative.

The Prime Minister recently announced that Canada would join other countries in sponsoring the United Nations World Summit for Children to be held next September.