

## S. O. 29

usually do forthwith, within one day, when they are alerted. However, I must regretfully say that when questions are asked of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Masse), we seldom if ever get a reply on time. We seldom even get it when it is late and we ask about it in the House.

I know I ask more questions than some Hon. Members, perhaps more than any other Member, and I want to point out that some Ministers do obey the rules. I did not want this occasion to go by without recording the fact that that is very much appreciated. However, there are culprits who should be exposed.

**Mr. Hawkes:** Mr. Speaker, I think it is unfortunate that this master is brought up when the Minister is not here. It would be better to deal with it when he is.

**Mr. Boudria:** All Members are here. It is against the rules to say otherwise.

**Mr. Hawkes:** I would point out that there was a very important energy conference in Montreal all week dealing with a lot of energy initiatives relating to the final print of the text of the free trade. It was not a normal week for the Minister, and on his behalf I think that should be part of the record of today's proceedings.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Parliamentary Secretary, as is his duty, has spoken well on behalf of the Minister. I say to the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria) that this part of *Hansard* will also be brought to the attention of others.

I am still in the position of having to ask if all other questions shall stand.

**Mr. Gauthier:** On division.

**Mr. Speaker:** I understand that, despite the concern, I do have agreement from the House although I did hear someone say "on division". Perhaps in spite of that we still have agreement.

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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**MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 29(1)**

[English]

**HEALTH****TOXIC MUSSELS—DISCHARGE OF MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**Mr. Speaker:** I want to bring to the attention of the House the fact that I have received from the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) the appropriate notice in writing under Standing Order 29 of a motion to adjourn the House for the purpose of an emergency debate with respect to an issue the House has been hearing about for some days now, what you could call, I suppose, the toxic mussel situation.

I know the Hon. Member has some remarks to make and, in doing so, she will be constrained by the usual understanding that the Chair will hear enough from the Hon. Member so that the application is fully in front of the House.

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Lewis:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate your giving us notice of the motion which my hon. friend is about to move. I would draw the attention of the House to Standing Order 29(3) which says:

When requesting leave to propose such a motion, the Member shall rise in his or her place and present without argument the statement referred to in section (2) of this Standing Order.

**Mr. Gauthier:** The Speaker will look to that.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Minister of State (Mr. Lewis) is reading the rule. I hope that from my preliminary comment, the Hon. Member will keep that in mind.

**Ms. Copps:** Mr. Speaker, I served notice this morning of my intention to ask the Speaker, who is certainly very knowledgeable in these areas, for the chance to give urgent consideration to the question of the Minister of National Health and Welfare's (Mr. Epp) handling of the toxic mussel situation.

I think the contradictions have been well outlined in the House. He has made statements which are at variance with the facts on a number of occasions, first, relating to the time the testing occurred; second, relating to the number of mice that were killed as a result of toxic injections; third, as a result of his—

**Mr. Hawkes:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I believe Standing Order 29(3) anticipates that the Hon. Member will present the statement presented to the Speaker at least one hour ago. Surely there should be no latitude of the kind we are currently experiencing. We brought the rule to the Hon. Member's attention—

**Ms. Copps:** He is the Speaker.

**Mr. Dick:** You are the mouth.

**Mr. Hawkes:** —before she got the floor. We expected to hear the statement presented to you one hour ago rather than this free-lancing. By implication we are going to get ourselves in a difficult situation if the Standing Order is not adhered to.

**Ms. Copps:** Who are you, the Speaker?

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, the Parliamentary Secretary has hoisted himself on his own petard. The rules are quite explicit. The Member must present a written statement to the Speaker one hour before raising it in the House. That has been done. The Member must also, and I will read the Standing Order:

—present without argument the statement referred to—