

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, without accepting the basic premise of the Hon. Member's question, I will take it as a representation in a general sense. I will make sure the Minister receives the representation, and he will get back to the Hon. Member in due course.

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NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

CALL FOR SUSPENSION OF TESTING

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. He will know that at the very time he was speaking to the consultative group on arms control and disarmament last week, six of the world's most distinguished statesmen were issuing a call to the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. to suspend all nuclear testing for at least 12 months. Will the Prime Minister consider Canada joining this great five-continent initiative and, indeed, possibly offering Canada's verification mechanisms to help provide third-party monitoring?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, this matter has been raised and considered before. It is Canada's view that, particularly at this time as the Soviet Union and the United States prepare for a Summit which could well hold the world's security in its hands, it is important for Canada to continue to play actively those roles we have traditionally played. That means, of course, that we want to pursue, very vigorously, initiatives and opportunities open for us at Stockholm, at Geneva, at the MBFR talks and in other fora.

• (1500)

Mr. Speaker: A short supplementary question.

CANADIAN POSITION

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, is the Prime Minister willing, however, to join the leaders of Greece, Sweden, Argentina, India, Mexico and Tanzania in calling for an immediate ban by both sides on nuclear testing? That would be the action we could take now, and we could help in the verification of that action.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, asking others to act is not always action. The Hon. Member has asked the Prime Minister of Canada to join the leaders of India and some other countries. Very recently at Nassau the Prime Minister of Canada not only joined those leaders but led those leaders—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): —in coming to a conclusion on an important international question on which Canada has direct influence. It is the policy of the Government to direct its

Point of Order—Mr. Robinson

attention toward those areas in which we can offer leadership and influence, not simply advice.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petition presented by the Hon. Member for Swift Current-Maple Creek (Mr. Wilson) on Monday, November 4, 1985, by filing with the Clerk of the House, meets the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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POINTS OF ORDER

MR. SPEAKER'S RULING ON QUESTIONS CONCERNING MINISTER'S FORMER PORTFOLIO

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order flowing from my question to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) in the House today. On October 3, 1985, I asked a question of the Minister of State for Transport (Mrs. Blais-Grenier) as follows:

Is the Minister prepared to account to the taxpayers of Canada by tabling in this House all receipts for her personal expenditures on these junkets around Europe?

That was the question, Mr. Speaker, which I put to the Minister of State for Transport and on October 3 the Speaker allowed the Minister of State for Transport to answer precisely that question. I, of course, assumed that the Speaker's ruling today would be the same as his ruling on October 3. Therefore, following the precedent established by the Speaker, I put my question once again to the Minister of State for Transport. Well, Mr. Speaker, the rules apparently changed and the Speaker indicated that I should put my question to someone else, either the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) or the Minister of the Environment. I then, Mr. Speaker, got up and put the question to the Minister of the Environment, and the Speaker will recall that the answer of the Minister of the Environment was interrupted by noise and then the Speaker stood up.

My recollection, Mr. Speaker, is that at that point the Speaker said that Members of the House should allow the Minister to complete his reply. My recollection of what the Speaker indicated is that Members should allow the Minister to complete his reply and that he was not being permitted to do so. I then stood up and indicated, because the Minister of the Environment was rising at the same time, that before putting a supplementary question I would allow the Minister to complete his answer. He was on his feet, Mr. Speaker. The Speaker then knew very clearly that I had a supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: With great respect, I am prepared to let the Member finish his point of order, but I would appreciate if he would come to a point of order.