

moved closure, Bill C-20 had been debated at second reading for less than two hours. It is a very routine Bill.

As parliamentarians, we know that amendments to the Excise Act are proposed following virtually every budget. I do not think the House has shown itself to be very constructive in the passage of these Bills. Quite the contrary. I simply want to make the point that closure is an unpleasant method of running the Government. It is essentially undemocratic in that it seeks to limit dissent. When closure is used in a routine way, as it appears this Government has done on occasion, at least, and when it is used to stamper an opposition that is not even attempting to impede the Government's right to pass legislation, then this is an abuse of the House and an abuse of Standing Order 57.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I note with some humour my hon. friend's comments with respect to the question of closure. It is a legitimate tool which is in the Standing Orders. It is just as legitimate as forcing a vote on the introduction of one's own private Bill, which my friends in the New Democratic Party have done on several occasions in an effort to blow some time.

In an effort to make up for some time, we have used the device of closure. It is much more expedient than time allocation. I would only suggest this to my hon. friend, in a rhetorical way, that had he come to me and suggested that a mere extension of hours would have done the job, we would have done it.

**Mr. Speaker:** There are occasions in the life of the House of Commons when all Members on both sides should tread with great caution, and this is perhaps one of those afternoons. However, I have listened very carefully to what the Hon. Member for Kamloops (Mr. Riis) has said on behalf of the New Democratic Party. I will consider his comments.

I do not think that a ruling is required. He has made clear his grievance and there has been a response from the Government House Leader, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lewis). However, I am going to examine carefully what the Hon. Member for Kamloops has said and reflect upon it.

### *Tabling of Documents*

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*Translation*]

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### TABLING OF ETHICS CODE FOR CANADIAN COMPANIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 67(2), I table the code of ethics, in both official languages, for Canadian companies in South Africa.

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### REGULATORY AFFAIRS

#### TABLING OF REMISSION ORDERS AND GOVERNMENT REPORT CONCERNING REMITTANCE DECREES

**Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Privatization and Regulatory Affairs)):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 32(2), I have the honour to table copies in both official languages of several remission orders and government reports presented to Parliament concerning the remission orders approved for the six-month period ending March 31, 1989.

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### ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PRIVACY

#### TABLING OF FIRST ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON APPLICATION OF THE ACTS

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the First Annual Comprehensive Report on the Implementation of the Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act.

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• (1520)

[*English*]

### ORDER IN COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

#### REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEES

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table, in both official languages, a number of Order in Council appointments which were made by the Government. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 110(1),