

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. There is a very serious technical difficulty. The Chair must admit that it is having difficulty hearing interventions from that corner of the House. If Hon. Members are being hampered in the due process of debate, that is to speak and be heard, perhaps we should adjourn at this time. Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, I agree that we should adjourn at this time. I hope that when the House resumes debate on this subject, the Chair will give the Hon. Member for Lisgar (Mr. Murta) his full ten minutes because we have hardly heard a word he has said so far.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): It being one o'clock, I do now leave the Chair until two o'clock.

At 12.54 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

SHIPBUILDING

BENEFITS FOR QUEBEC FROM FRIGATE PATROL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Mr. Gaston Gourde (Lévis): Madam Speaker, last Friday, union workers from the Davie Shipbuilding Ltd. shipyards at Lauzon, representatives of socio-economic organizations, mayors and business leaders marched in the streets of Lauzon and Lévis to demonstrate their support for awarding the National Defence frigate construction project to the Scan group.

I spoke on that occasion and indicated my own support for this option as well. A petition with 5,200 signatures, collected in four days, was handed to me, a petition signed by people from all walks of life in the riding of Lévis, and by Canadians from all regions.

I hope this new development will be considered by Cabinet members before a final decision is made. This unique contract is very important to the Quebec City area, which depends on this type of government investment to continue its economic development.

I may recall that over one million people live in this area, and if this option is chosen, it will provide a reasonable level of employment for a number of years.

[English]

S.O. 21

METRIC CONVERSION

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY COMMITMENT TO RESCIND MANDATORY ORDERS IN COUNCIL

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) has locked up his last retail grocer, put cable around his last gas pump, and prosecuted his last floor covering dealer for using imperial measurements. There has never been a survey or poll taken which would indicate that the majority of the Canadian people want metric measurement. For this reason, the Progressive Conservatives, in Opposition, make the following commitment. All Orders in Council passed making imperial measurement illegal shall be rescinded, and the Canadian people will have freedom of choice. Canada would follow the course taken by the United States and the United Kingdom by implementing a voluntary program which would leave the pace of change up to the retailers, manufacturers, and consumers.

The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has lost control of his senses. The people of Canada do not want mandatory metric. When Members of the Conservative Party form the next Government we will return to a voluntary program, and grocers, floor covering sales people, and gasoline station operators will not be prosecuted if they wish to use imperial measurement.

The Progressive Conservative Party has adopted the following resolution: "We deplore the continuation of the policy of the Government of enforcing compulsory metrication in Canada and we will take, when in Government, any action necessary to abandon compulsory metrication in Canada."

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[Translation]

AIR TRANSPORT

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC'S POSITION ON QUEBECAIR

Mr. Rémi Bujold (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Madam Speaker, this morning, in the Quebec National Assembly, the Quebec Minister of Transport responded to the offer he received at the beginning of April from Air Canada to settle the Quebecair problem once and for all.

The Quebec Minister of Transport responded by nationalizing Quebecair. What is even more surprising, Madam Speaker, is that since April, the Quebec Minister of Transport has never been in touch with the federal Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) to enquire about the proposal that had been made by Air Canada.

Madam Speaker, the Government of Quebec is refusing the \$12.5 million offered by the Government to Quebecair in order to stabilize the situation. In addition, it has turned down the federal Government's offer to help pay future debts of Quebecair.