

What my personal opinions might be matters very little at the moment because I am asked by all of you to interpret the rules of this place, not to give you my personal opinions about the appropriateness of prayers or the inappropriateness of prayers. Whatever temptation I may have to make some comments thereon, I, of course, have to restrain myself from saying anything.

However, if hon. members wish either to change the form of the prayer or, for that matter, make a decision that prayers will not be said, it is not for me to do. That is up to members. I am sure that if that matter comes under discussion the sensibilities and the sentiments of the vast majority of Canadians would be taken into account.

I think that is probably where we ought to leave the matter, except I think I can say the following to hon. members, many of whom have been able to be with me at official and less than official occasions in this House when we have dined together. Hon. members will remember that I always ask members to join with me in the blessing. Hon. members will also note that, while I am Christian, I was raised to have great respect for other people's views and the blessing always commences the same way, in such a way that the vast majority of us can join in it with respect and gratitude. I always say: "Lord, whose children we all are—". That seems to gain some considerable acceptance. I mention it for your consideration.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

• (1120)

[*English*]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to 65 petitions.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

Routine Proceedings

INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

Mr. Pat Sobeski (Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 34(1), I have the honour to present to the House, in both official languages, the report of the Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association of the official parliamentary delegation which represented Canada at the official visit at Westminster from May 9 to May 25, 1990.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

THIRD REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Ken Hughes (Macleod): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the third report of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs. The report relates to the Inuit people who were moved to Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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PLAIN LANGUAGE ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-320, an act to promote the use of plain language in federal statutes, statutory instruments and regulations.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the hon. member shall have leave to introduce the bill?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: Explain.

Mr. Speaker: I think I should advise hon. members and the public who is watching that at this point the hon. member is entitled to a brief statement. How any member is, in a brief statement, going to explain how we are going to promote the use of plain language in federal statutes is beyond me, but the hon. member can have a try.

Mr. Waddell: Well, with the help of the Lord and other people, maybe we can do it.