

Tributes

Mr. Guy H. Arseneault (Restigouche—Chaleur): Madam Speaker, I would like to support my colleagues by saying that the estimates should be tabled tomorrow before Question Period and, if not, maybe the government should do what it has done in the past and table them late tonight in the press gallery like it did with a budget not too long ago.

Madam Deputy Speaker: If I may, the Chair has been quite patient in listening to comments from all sides.

It seems to me that the government House leader has heard what the opposition had to say on the subject, and that the answer which he gave previously is to stand.

I think it would really be better for the House to move on to other business. I notice there is another point of order. I know that the hon. minister has asked to be recognized on a special tribute.

If we want to debate the motion which is now before the House, I think we should proceed.

Mr. Angus: Madam Speaker, I listened to your words carefully, and I listened to the words of the minister. He has said no.

The House wants unanimous consent tomorrow to proceed through all three readings of a very important bill. If this government is not prepared to co-operate with the opposition when we want to get information tabled in this House one hour earlier, then Madam Speaker, we will have to consider whether we co-operate to allow legislation to proceed tomorrow through all three readings.

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POINT OF ORDER

AIR QUALITY IN WEST BLOCK

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary Northeast): Madam Speaker, my point of order concerns the air quality in the West Block.

I would like to table some documents that I wrote to Mr. Cloutier, the Sergeant-at-Arms in December 1989. I asked for quality control, especially concerning asbestos.

Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Chair to investigate the quality of air in the West Block and in the Wellington Building as well. I am going to table the documents.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I thank the hon. member. This is a question that is being taken very seriously by the Speaker and by members of the House. It will be proceeded with and investigated as it should.

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THE LATE ROBERT SIMPSON

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of Forestry): Madam Speaker, I beg your indulgence, and that of our colleagues, to say a few words in tribute to a former colleague in the House of Commons whose 15 years of service left an indelible mark on our country.

I speak of Robert (Bud) Simpson, member of Parliament for Churchill from 1957 to 1972, who died last week at the age of 80.

Before his death, he had the satisfaction of seeing much of what he had advocated in this House become reality. After winning six elections, he decided not to run for re-election in 1972, when I was first elected to Parliament.

At that time, the name of Bud Simpson meant something to us freshmen who arrived here, because he had charted a course of parliamentary conduct which all of us would have liked to follow.

Like myself, he represented people of a vast and far flung region of our country, larger than many European countries. He was sent to Parliament in 1957 when travel in the riding and in parts of northern Canada were very difficult and required great sacrifice.

The sacrifice he made and the hardship he endured in his travels were shared by his family. He had a profound sense of duty and commitment. In fact, his daughter followed in his footsteps. She served as my constituency secretary for 15 years.

Bud Simpson was a highly principled man as those who know him would attest. He represented his constituency well. He called for airports and landing strips in The Pas, Thompson and throughout the north.

He never let an opportunity go by in this House to remind decision-makers that Churchill was as much a port on an ocean as those on the Atlantic and on the Pacific. He made us mindful of the vigour and the strength of new Canadians as residents in the northern region.