

*Government Orders*

(d) No cars were rented. However, the television crew rented a van with a driver for the duration of the *Sommet*.

For the rental costs, see response in (b) above.

(e) See response in (b) above.

(f) See response in (b) above.

(g) See response in (b) above.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** The question as enumerated by the parliamentary secretary has been answered.

**Mr. Cooper:** I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall the remaining questions stand?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

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## MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 52

### ATLANTIC FISHERY

**Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to request an emergency debate on the issue of the unfolding disaster in the Atlantic fishery. I make my request under Standing Order 52.

Your Honour will be aware that we are facing a crisis of unprecedented proportions with immense implications for jobs and so on. I hope you would find it possible to grant my request for a debate under Standing Order 52.

### SPEAKER'S RULING

**Mr. Speaker:** I have of course been paying attention to this matter. The hon. member has indicated to me, as he is required to do, that he wishes to raise this matter. There will be a debate on the issue tomorrow night commencing at eight o'clock p.m.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### SPENDING CONTROL ACT

#### MEASURE TO ENACT

**Hon. John McDermid (for the Minister of Finance)** moved that Bill C-56, an act respecting the control of government expenditures, be read the second time and referred to Legislative Committee E.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak at second reading of Bill C-56, the spending control act.

The motion today is a very important one. As the Minister of Finance and I have pointed out on a number of recent occasions, the pre-budget consultations we had with organizations representing every sector of Canadian society have had one clear and consistent focus, that is the strong desire among Canadians for continued spending restraint by government, a lower deficit and greater assurance that taxes can be kept within bounds in the future. In those pre-budget consultations that is what came from every group from all walks of life. With this measure that we are debating today on second reading, we are responding to that firmly and clearly expressed desire by Canadians.

I would like to explain briefly what the spending control act will do and to place it in the context of the government's comprehensive plan for economic recovery. As hon. members are aware, the government announced its intention to introduce mandatory legislated spending limits in the February 1991 budget and draft legislation was released last summer.

The Standing Committee on Finance of this House conducted extensive public hearings on the draft bill and then its report came forward with a number of recommendations. I would like to take this occasion to thank hon. members of all parties for their useful consideration of the finance committee's study of the bill and to thank the many Canadians who appeared before that committee to offer their views and to give advice to the Government of Canada.

I might say as an editorial comment that it may be wise for the government and for the opposition parties to take a look at the possibility of pre-examining bills more often. It probably produces better legislation and much better debate in the House of Commons. This bill is an example of that, because we have made some changes as to the suggestions of the committee and witnesses who have appeared. We had an opportunity to air this bill before it was brought back to the House in its present form.

As I said earlier, the spending control act is a vital part of the government's commitment to build a stronger Canadian economy by controlling the deficit and the heavy burden of the public debt. The act will limit federal government program spending through to the year 1995-96, and this means all spending except for major self-financing programs and interest charges on the public debt to the levels set out in the fiscal plan brought forward in the February 1991 budget.