

Routine Proceedings

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I thought I should rise to inform the House that the city of Vancouver this weekend had a referendum on the GST, and it was 15 per cent in favour and—

Mr. Speaker: I certainly appreciate the interest of the hon. member to advise the House of what is going on in the city from whence I come, but I do not think that that is a point of order.

COMMENTS DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I am rising on a question of privilege arising out of Question Period, of which I have given you notice. I have also notified the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology.

In fact, during the course of Question Period the minister of industry made a statement which was false. He stated falsely in the House that the previous Liberal government had in fact approved the takeover of Consumers Gas by British Gas. We have been in touch with not only the former premier himself but also the treasurer. That is a false statement.

I am sure that the minister of industry would not want a false statement to remain on the record. I would like to invite him to use this opportunity to correct the record and to put the facts on the table, that his statement during Question Period was patently false.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, during Question Period I said that the Premier— I did not say the government or the Ontario Cabinet— I said that Premier Peterson agreed with the Consumers Gas proposal, and he confirmed this during the election campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I maintain that what I said was true. I will make further inquiries, but I repeat, I maintain what I said during Question Period.

• (1510)

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: I have listened to the hon. member for Hamilton East.

Ms. Copps: It is a false statement.

Mr. Speaker: Just a moment.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: I wonder if hon. members would help the Chair.

I have listened carefully to what the hon. member for Hamilton East has said. I have now listened to the hon. minister. I am going to examine the “blues” carefully and, if it is necessary, I will come back to the Chamber. I may even hear further argument.

I do not need to hear further argument this afternoon. I am going to look at the “blues” and, if necessary, I will hear further argument.

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PRESENCE IN THE GALLERY

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw the attention of members to the presence in the gallery of Dr. Laszlo Surjan, Minister of Health of Hungary.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

HAMILTON HARBOUR COMMISSION

LEGAL OPINION RESPECTING P. G. LUSH

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 32(2), I have the honour to table the legal opinion respecting Mr. P. G. Lush, former member and chairman of the Hamilton Harbour Commission.

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[*Translation*]

ORDER IN COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

TABLING AND REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEES

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): 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), these are deemed referred to the appropriate standing committees, a list of which is attached.