

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, June 5, 1986

The House met at 11 a.m.

[English]

## POINT OF ORDER

STATEMENT BY MINISTER—ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I understand the Minister is going to make a statement. To the best of my knowledge we were not informed. I certainly was not informed. There is a practice and procedure we have followed here, informal though it may be, that House Leaders' offices are informed of statements in order that we might prepare our critics. I object to the Minister not sticking to the understandings which we have.

**Mr. Nystrom:** Arrogant Tories.

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, at the request of the House Leader of the NDP I did check with officials. It is our understanding that the appropriate critics—

**Mr. Deans:** That is not the agreement.

**Mr. Lewis:** Just give me a minute. I used the words "our understanding". I have checked and it is our understanding that the appropriate critics were made aware of the fact that the Minister was to make a statement. Rather than have any unpleasantness on this, I would suggest that with consent we defer the Minister's statement until three o'clock or such time as the Opposition critics have had an opportunity to prepare their responses.

**Mr. Deans:** Mr. Speaker, I think that is a fine suggestion. I am quite prepared to agree to that. There was no criticism intended of the Government House Leader's office, but we have had this problem in the past. As you can see, the critics apparently are not here to respond or even hear the statement.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, I simply want to confirm that we agree with the proposal to have the Minister's statement at 3 o'clock, even though we did not receive any prior notice. However, we shall be ready to reply at 3 o'clock.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** I take it that the House will be willing, by consent, to revert later to statements by Ministers.

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

STRIKING—THIRTY-EIGHTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the thirty-eighth report of the Striking Committee.

PRICING OF DOMESTIC WHEAT AND ITS PRODUCTS—REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

**Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present, in both official languages, the report of the Special Committee on the Pricing of Domestic Wheat and its Products.

[Translation]

TRANSPORT—NINTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley—Hants):** Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to present the ninth report of the Standing Committee on Transport in both official languages—

[English]

—which relates to transportation services in northern and remote areas of Canada.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

### PETITIONS

PUBLIC ACCESS TO GROUNDS OF GOVERNOR GENERAL'S RESIDENCE

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, it is an honour and a pleasure for me to present a few petitions, six, I think—

[English]

—from residents of my riding, Ottawa—Vanier, and also from other Canadians who visit the national capital. They are asking the Government to reconsider its decision to close the grounds of Rideau Hall to the general public. They are asking that consultations take place with groups of citizens representative of the large and growing opposition to the closing of the grounds in order that a *modus vivendi* can be reached to satisfy both the security of the Governor General and the need for Canadians to visit the grounds when they want to.