

*Routine Proceedings*

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is that we need a few more moments to complete our remarks beyond what we are able to complete today. Therefore, I suggest to my hon. friend, and to members of the House, that we call it 3.29, resume debate and finish this off in a matter of minutes, perhaps, on Monday. Now we can go directly to the ministerial statement.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is it agreed?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Therefore it is 3.29.

**Mr. Blais:** Mr. Speaker, I just want to understand where we are and where we are going on Monday. It is very important for us and for everybody to know.

I thought we had an agreement on that. I just want to make sure. If the member needs a few minutes more to finish his speech, I understand that. We had an agreement about the time from all three parties.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I find it now to be 3.29 p.m.

The House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, for goodness' sake, we called for the minister to make a statement. We are prepared to listen to that statement immediately. It is important that we do that. I think we should suspend Private Members' Business to allow the minister to make a statement and if the parties want to respond appropriately as per usual that ought to be allowed as well.

• (1530)

For goodness' sake, this is a serious issue and the minister has agreed to be here. She is here. Let us hear her.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Shall I revert to ministerial statements?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[English]

**NATIONAL DEFENCE****CRASH OF HERCULES AIRCRAFT**

**Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the co-operation of the House at this late hour on Friday afternoon.

Before the weekend began I did want to rise in the House and provide you with the most recent information on the search and rescue efforts which are continuing at this time near Alert in the Northwest Territories.

All hon. members know that on Wednesday, October 30, a Hercules transport aircraft crashed with 18 persons aboard while on approach to Canadian Forces Station Alert.

Soon afterward, a massive search and rescue operation was mounted by air and land from several bases and installations across Canada, including CFB Trenton, CFB Edmonton, and of course CFS Alert.

I think all hon. members will know that at this time of the year the conditions in the high Arctic are harsh and unpredictable. The temperature fell to minus 20 degrees Celsius. There were severe winds which created wind-chill factors and poor visibility, including total white-outs. Last but not least, the terrain in that area is extremely rugged and efforts to reach the downed aircraft were hindered by these very inhospitable conditions.

The personnel persevered and, at a brief break in the weather last night, specially trained search and rescue technicians were able to parachute into the crash site. Shortly thereafter the ground search party also reached the crash site.

However, it is with deep regret and sadness that I must inform the House that five members of the Canadian Forces have perished in this most unfortunate incident. They are: Captain Couch of CFB Edmonton, Captain Trepanier of Canadian Forces Communications Command Headquarters in Ottawa, Master Warrant Officer Jardine of CFB Trenton, Warrant Officer Grimsly of the Canadian Forces Communications Command Headquarters in Ottawa, and Master Corporal Pitre of CFB Edmonton.