

on Labour, Employment and Immigration concerning the refugee claimant backlog. In accordance with Standing Order 70(16) I request that the Government make a comprehensive response to the sixth report.

[*Editor's Note: For above reports, see today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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[*Translation*]

#### PARLIAMENTARY LOBBYISTS

##### TABLING OF DISCUSSION DOCUMENT—LOBBYISTS AND REGISTRATION OF PAID LOBBYISTS

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 47(2), I have the honour of tabling, in both official languages, a discussion document entitled: "Lobbyists and Registration of Paid Lobbyists".

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[*English*]

#### ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

##### ST. CLAIR RIVER POLLUTION

**Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, as Hon. Members will recall, I promised that before the end of the current year I would report back to the House and to the Canadian people on the results of the investigations into the so-called "blob" in the St. Clair River. Before doing so, Sir, allow me to apologize to the official spokespersons of the opposition Parties. It simply was not technically possible for me to get a copy of my notes for these remarks to them beforehand.

**Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** We are getting used to this.

**Mr. McMillan:** Although the scientific investigation is not yet complete, I would like to make a preliminary report on the situation in the St. Clair River. It should reassure—

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I do not want to interrupt the Minister, but it is necessary in this sense. This procedure of not giving the spokespersons for members of the Opposition adequate time is becoming contagious among Ministers of the Government. I wonder whether the Minister would give our representative and that of the NDP some time to look at copies of the statement by postponing it until later this afternoon or until tomorrow. We have had not time to look at this.

**Mr. Langdon:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a similar point of order. I think that in the interest of informed exchange on ministerial statements it would be far, far better if at least a short period of time were permitted for opposition spokesmen to review the material to be read.

#### Statements by Ministers

**Mr. Speaker:** I am required, of course, to indicate that this is not technically a point of order but a representation.

**Mr. Gauthier:** It's a point of politeness.

**Mr. McMillan:** Mr. Speaker, I have apologized to the Opposition.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** That's not good enough.

**Mr. Keeper:** That is not good enough. Resign.

**Mr. McMillan:** What I am giving to the House is the most—

**Mr. Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, can I ask the Minister why he cannot make this statement tomorrow?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please! Order!

**Mr. Gray (Windsor West):** If he was not planning to be in the House he should give the House priority and be here tomorrow.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray) rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Gray (Windsor West):** Yes. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask why, under the circumstances, the Minister cannot make his statement tomorrow. If he does not plan to be in the House tomorrow, why can he not give the House priority, show some respect to Parliament, be here, make the statement tomorrow—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order, please! I did indicate that these are not points of order but representations. I cannot, therefore, allow a point of order that is not a point of order to continue to be presented. I think Hon. Members know that.

● (1510)

**An Hon. Member:** What arrogance.

**Mr. Thacker:** Go downstairs then. If you don't want it in the House we will go downstairs to the press room.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Hon. Minister of the Environment.

**Mr. McMillan:** Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to members of the Opposition who rose on this point of order, they can hardly argue that members of the Government have been discourteous, especially when the Liberal Party, when in government, made a practice of not even making statements in the House.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** You don't know what you're talking about.

**Mr. McDermid:** You weren't even here, Turner. How do you know?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.