

Tabling of Documents

order. Unless someone can persuade me of that pretty quickly, I think that is the end of it.

Mr. Len Gustafson (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) knows that the wording of the answer to Question No. 54 was correct in one official language and wrong in the other official language. We took steps to have it corrected in *Hansard*. Our House Leader dealt with the House Leader on the other side to have it corrected and the Hon. Member for Burnaby is just up to mischief.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair has indicated that this does not seem to be a point of order at all, but I will hear the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary.

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, this matter was brought to our attention. I entered into discussions with the House Leader of the New Democratic Party and the House Leader of the Liberal Party. I pointed out that it was in error in English but correct in French. I then wrote the following letter to *Hansard*:

The English translation of the answer to question No. 54 as provided by Mr. Len Gustafson, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, contains an error. It now reads "As the Head of State" whereas it should read "As Head of Government".

I have discussed this correction with Mr. Herb Gray, House Leader of the Official Opposition and Mr. Nelson Riis, House Leader of the New Democratic Party, and they are agreeable to the change being made in the final version of *Hansard*.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

I do not know what more we can do when an honest error has been made but correct it after discussions with our colleagues. To have this kind of nonsense come along a lot later is an abuse of the House.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, a long explanation is being made here. I must say that on February 20 when we received *Hansard*, a number of Members brought to our attention that there had obviously been an interesting slip made. A number of Members asked if it was proper to refer to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) as Head of State. Indeed, it did cause us some concern.

A number of days later, probably two weeks later, the Parliamentary Secretary came to me and asked if, for the official version of *Hansard* which takes effect a number of days after the fact, it would be acceptable to have this clarified. I said that it had caused some concern to a number of my colleagues that the Hon. Member used the term "Head of State", but for the official record that correction might be appropriate. As the Parliamentary Secretary has clearly indicated, we had agreed to the change in the official record. Perhaps the Government should change its mind and clarify it.

Mr. Gustafson: Mr. Speaker, the House might be interested to know that the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) met me in the hallway and asked me the specific trap question:

"Who is the Head of State", and I answered him by saying: "The Governor General of Canada". The Hon. Member knows he is up to mischief. If I have caused any embarrassment to anyone by signing something that I did not read very carefully, I apologize.

Mr. Speaker: As the Chair indicated, the Chair had some doubt as to whether or not it was a point of order, but the Chair has no doubt when recognizing an apology. I think perhaps it is time to go on to something else.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY—JUDGES' REMUNERATION

TABLING OF REPORT

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the report and recommendations of the 1986 Commission of Inquiry on Judges' Remuneration.

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[English]

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (C), 1987-88

A message from Her Excellency the Governor General transmitting Supplementary Estimates (C) for the financial year ending March 31, 1987, was presented by the Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board) and read by Mr. Speaker to the House.

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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS

RENEWAL OF EQUALIZATION PROGRAM

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the House today that I am introducing legislation which will renew the Equalization Program. There are few government programs which are as important as equalization and I think all Hon. Members would agree with that.

At \$5.3 billion this year, equalization provides major federal financial support for the less wealthy regions of Canada. Without this assistance, the lower-income provinces would be unable to provide to Canadians residing in these regions the basic services enjoyed in other parts of Canada. In particular the provinces of Atlantic Canada, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, rely on this support. Equalization is also important for Quebec and