[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the Members who were unable to get in yesterday because of the weather are very grateful to their colleagues on both sides of the House for their patience. That is why, this morning, I want to ask the unanimous consent of the House, so that no one will be penalized, for starting today's sitting, the sitting of Tuesday, March 20, 1984, forthwith so that we may consider Bill C-21.

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, we have been put into this rarest of phenomena, the parliamentary black hole, because of the negligence of the Government in not having their Members here to vote on legislation.

Some Hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Mr. Nielsen: Surely the Government can organize itself to give priority where it deserves to be, in the House of Commons, and not traipsing around the country on leadership campaigns.

Mr. Speaker: I gather there is not consent from the House Leader of the Opposition.

Security Intelligence Service

Mr. Nielsen: You make assumptions too rapidly, Sir. We will bail them out this time. In the future let them be warned. They must pay attention to their duties here and not be gambolling all over the country.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, we will indeed consent. At three o'clock this afternoon I intend to raise a brief point of order with respect to the regularity of last night's occurrences and the mode that we found ourselves in today.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, with respect, we will also give consent. I would point out that we were ready to vote yesterday all day. It is unfortunate that the Government, having moved closure on the Bill, did not have its Members here to vote.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, our offer to the Opposition to have Question Period today still stands.

Mr. Speaker: It being after eleven o'clock a.m., this House stands adjourned by unanimous consent to later this day.

At 11.30 a.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.