S. O. 29

United States and Canada, which document was signed on behalf of Canada by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), the Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney), Derek Burney and Simon Reisman.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The Chair felt that under the circumstances it probably would be acceptable to the House if the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) tabled those documents, having made reference to an intention to do so in his original remarks. Perhaps I should put this question to the House: Is it agreed that the documents be tabled?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

PETITIONS

SUPPORT FOR BILL C-55

Mr. Paul Gagnon (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I have both the duty and honour to present a petition signed by residents of Calgary, Langdon, and Slave Lake, Alberta, and of Ottawa, which calls upon Parliament to act upon the problems with refugee determination in Canada, and to restore to the system fairness, justice and expediency by supporting Bill C-55. As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

• (1220)

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)): Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all questions on the Order Paper be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall all questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

MOTIONS TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 29

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. Speaker: I should advise the House that I have received from the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent) an application under Standing Order 29 for an emergency debate tonight. I have also received, in order of receipt, a similar application on behalf of the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy).

I will hear the Hon. Member for Oshawa.

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, as you indicated, earlier today I gave you notice of my intention of rising under the provisions of Standing Order 29 to seek leave to adjourn the House for the purpose of discussing what is an issue of vital national importance.

The issue is that of the agreement in principle that has been entered into between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States in the broad area of free trade. In our view, this agreement goes to the root of the question about what a nation is all about.

For this reason, Mr. Speaker, if you should rule in my favour, at the appropriate time I will be prepared to move the appropriate motion.

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, in making application under Standing Order 29 for an emergency debate, first we were motivated by the important substance of the issue. Perhaps there has been no more important issue brought forward to the House in decades.

For the past week we have not had an opportunity to have a debate in the House concerning this issue.

I also wish to draw to the attention of the Chair that the announcement and the documents tabled today by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) are called, "Elements of the Agreement". Many of the important consequences and details surrounding that are missing. We presume that that can only be achieved or attained by the opportunity to have a full exchange and dialogue in the House. The impact upon agriculture, the Auto Pact, and others are such that there are many interest groups and major constituencies in the country which, this morning, are in deep concern and uncertainty as to the meaning of this agreement. They will only be able to achieve understanding if the House has an opportunity to debate the issues at the first and earliest opportunity.

Mr. Speaker: I wish to assure the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent), the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy), and other Hon. Members that the Chair, of course, takes the matter as one of great importance, as has been indicated in the House, as do all Hon. Members, although there may be some division on the support for the measure or opposition to it.

However, I note that we have now had an extensive debate. There will be Question Period following this afternoon. The Government has indicated that the documents which record the understanding are going in front of a committee.

An Hon. Member: When?

Mr. Speaker: I hear an Hon. Member ask, "When?". Perhaps the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) and the House Leaders could discuss that. At least for today, we should probably let the usual course proceed. Of course, I would imagine there will be extensive discussion during