

Motions for Papers

[English]

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, before we leave the production of papers I rise on a point of order. My point is that either the government has been particularly negligent in responding to certain motions passed by the House or is seeking to avoid answering them. On February 21 two motions standing in my name were passed by the House, each of them relating to documents concerning fish canning facilities on the north coast of British Columbia. On March 28 three other motions or a total of five, relating to the same subject matter were passed by the House asking that there be laid before the House certain documents and exchanges of correspondence with respect to canning facilities on the north coast of British Columbia.

The same motions were put forward to the House during the previous session of parliament. There is ample information, ample advance notice, and ample knowledge about them in the hands of the government and the Department of Fisheries. My point of order is that either through negligence or a desire not to comply with orders of the House the returns have not been tabled. I would like to have some response from the government on why it has not complied with five orders of the House with respect to the tabling of documents.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, there are two points I would like to raise with the hon. member at this time. The first is that before we can table these documents in the House we must receive consent from the government of British Columbia, and I have been informed that to date it has not been forthcoming.

The second point is that when we do have permission to table these documents it then becomes necessary to provide them in the two official languages. That means a built-in delay not only with respect to the production of the documents the hon. member for Skeena has requested but the production of all documents under this order of business that hon. members request. These are built-in delays, and I am sorry that it is not possible for me to expedite either the consent of the government of British Columbia or the translation process once we get permission.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member as well as to the parliamentary secretary that we could go on for a long time discussing the point raised by the hon. member for Skeena and the response made by the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council. I would hope that we could go on to the next item of business. Is the hon. member rising on a question of privilege?

Mr. Howard: On another point of order, Mr. Speaker. Production of the documents in response to only one of the five motions, separately passed by this House, rests on the consent of the government of British Columbia. The delay in producing the other documents is purely the responsibility of the federal government.

[Mr. Speaker.]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF HIS BEATITUDE, JOSYF
CARDINAL SLIPYJ

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence I would like to call the attention of the House to the presence in the Senate Gallery of a distinguished visitor, His Beatitude, Josyf Cardinal Slipyj of Rome, Archbishop-Major and Primate of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Stanley Haidasz (Minister of State): Mr. Speaker, as Minister of State responsible for the federal government's policy on multiculturalism I would like on behalf of the government of Canada to join with the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Yewchuk) in extending a very warm welcome to His Beatitude Josyf Cardinal Slipyj.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1430)

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I should like to point out once again that we have not received an answer to question No. 832. I have asked on several occasions that the answer be produced. The Auditor General has now referred to this matter in his report and I believe the House is entitled to an explanation why this question involving some \$28 million in expenditure has not been answered to the satisfaction of the House.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member, of course, is now going back to questions and we have already moved beyond the production of papers. If we continue going backwards we will find ourselves back to Tuesday.

Mr. Oberle: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I too may be wanting to go back but I am a little confused by the proceedings. I have a question on the order paper, No. 2,048, which was placed there on May 14. I do not abuse the privilege of asking questions on the order paper and have had very few. This question is very timely and concerns thousands of Canadians throughout the country. I would seek the indulgence of the House to ask the parliamentary secretary to answer this question in the immediate future.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES—REQUEST THAT MINISTER
TAKE INITIATIVE TO RESUME TALKS—GOVERNMENT
PROPOSALS—DUTY ON IMPORTED CARS

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the statement by Peter Flanigan, President of the Council on International Economic Policy, to the effect that there is no schedule for resuming trade talks between Canada and the United States, can the