

*Routine Proceedings*

I suggest that perhaps it was a 15 or 20 second span. It was inadequate to provide an answer. I do believe that there are several hundred thousand grain farmers who would be very interested in hearing the answer.

I wonder, with the greatest respect, whether the minister might be afforded the opportunity to complete his response to my question because I for one would like to hear it.

**Mr. Speaker:** I certainly regret if for whatever reason the hon. minister did not have sufficient time to give his response.

I must also point out that there are very adequate means available to ministers and to members to make information available. Of course the hon. member can avail himself of the rules, bring about an adjourned debate and put further questions to the government, at which time the minister or the minister's parliamentary secretary would be able to give an even more full response.

In any event, I certainly regret if the minister was cut off too quickly. I will try very hard to make sure that does not happen.

**Mr. Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, again with the greatest respect, I simply wish to make the observation that it appears that a number of questioners are allowed considerable preamble, some of which I would suggest were 40 to 50 seconds in length, and indeed there are long answers. I am simply suggesting that a question from a backbench government member ought to be treated with the same respect as one from any other member within this House—

• (1520)

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Speaker:** I want to assure the hon. member that questions from all members are treated with respect by the Chair. There have been suggestions made very recently that members on both sides have some discussions among themselves with respect to Question Period. I am hoping that those discussions are taking place.

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, the point is well taken that we want to make this place as relevant

as possible. May I suggest that in a moment or two we will be getting into Routine Proceedings and that the minister responsible has an opportunity to make a short statement at that point.

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[*Translation*]

**ROYAL ASSENT**

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received as follows:

Rideau Hall  
Ottawa

March 27, 1991

Mr. Speaker,

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Beverley M. McLachlin, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in her capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 27th day of March, 1991, at 4 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain Bills.

Yours sincerely,  
Anthony P. Smyth  
Deputy Secretary, Policy

[*English*]

**Mr. Angus:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification, in the interpretation of your first remarks, it said six o'clock, in English it said four o'clock. Could you clarify for the House when the Royal Assent will occur?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** It should be four o'clock. Sorry.

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[*Translation*]

**PETITIONS****GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

**Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the Government's response to three petitions.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]