

S. O. 31

[Translation]

FILM

REQUEST THAT FILM MAKER DENYS ARCAND RETRACT CERTAIN ASPERSIONS

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, fame and celebrity do not necessarily go together with good judgement. The people of Abitibi—Témiscamingue and Rouyn—Noranda will long remember what filmmaker Denys Arcand said on the program *Clap* broadcast by Radio-Québec on Saturday, May 27: “—a prize won in Cannes is worth more than a prize won in Rouyn—Noranda.”

Mr. Speaker, that is an insult not only to my constituents but especially to the whole team of the Abitibi—Témiscamingue International Film Festival who year after year give unstintingly to make this event something special.

Fortunately, such prestigious stars as Claude Lérouche, Margot Kidder and Philippe de Broca have a quite different impression and hold the Rouyn—Noranda International Film Festival in high esteem.

I therefore ask Denys Arcand to apologize publicly for his inappropriate comments about my region and especially about the excellent team who have made this event internationally famous and something of undeniable quality.

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[English]

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Hon. William Rompkey (Labrador): Mr. Speaker, today is the fortieth anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Canada can take a great deal of pride in its role in this organization from its very beginning. As a matter of fact,

Article II is known as the Canadian Article. At the end of 40 years, as NATO looks back and also looks ahead, it is very important for us as Canadians and our partners within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to consider how this organization can be made more effective in the future.

I submit it is true that with the creative use of Article II emphasizing economic and cultural things that we hold in common with our partners we can make the greatest contribution to world peace.

Now is the time for security, but now is the time also for looking for initiatives that can really bring about world peace through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization which we salute today.

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THE BUDGET

TIME DEVOTED TO LEAK

Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester): Mr. Speaker, day after day the Opposition goes on about the great Canadian budget leak. As a new Member of Parliament I am amazed at the time devoted to this issue when there are so many other issues far more important. Certainly it was unfortunate that there was a budget leak at all, but we cannot bring the Government to a stand still. The Opposition has made its point. Now let us get on with the matter at hand and do the job we were sent here to do.

People in my riding in Nova Scotia contact me every single day about important matters concerning fisheries, forestry, agriculture, regional development, unemployment insurance, and on and on. The fact of the matter is that not one constituent has ever contacted me about the budget leak or discussed the matter of the budget leak with me, and I respectfully request that we get on with the business at hand, that of running the country and serving the public.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

UNREST IN LEBANON

Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, the situation in Lebanon has recently taken a turn for the worse. A few days ago Syria set up a blockade around Beirut preventing all goods from entering the capital. This has seriously reduced the already drastic shortages of fuel, fresh food, water, and electricity in this war-torn city.

[Translation]

I would ask the Government to exert pressure through the Arab League and the United Nations to have the Syrian blockade lifted.