

the opportunity to express their support. I can only conclude that the minister is trying to hide behind a false and mistaken interpretation of the Standing Orders.

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I think that debate should properly take place during the debate on the particular motion. However, I want to say from the standpoint of the government that there may be a day when we do review the rules and perhaps more specifically outline exactly what could take place.

My hon. friend did not mis-state it intentionally but I think he would realize that the South Moresby motion, when debated, did not have a vote attached to it. It was not a confidence motion with a vote as today's is. It was an agreed upon motion after debate was entered into, and there is a great difference.

My hon. friend has a point but the government is of the opinion and holds the position that this is a confidence motion. I am really disappointed in the New Democratic Party. I want to make it very clear that the Liberal Party did not do this. To play petty politics with something as important as the environment is just not understandable.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has raised a complaint on a point of order. The government has responded and I do not think it is something on which I should make a ruling.

#### COMMENTS DURING QUESTION PERIOD

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte):** Mr. Speaker, further to the point of order raised earlier by the Minister of Transport which arose out of questions and answers in Question Period, I want to make clear that we accept fully that neither the Minister of Transport nor the Prime Minister were attempting to mislead the House in any way. The Minister of Transport, *Hansard* will show, indicated that Mr. Gallery has resigned as vice-president of CN. There was no reference to his directorship.

I called CN and spoke to them directly during Question Period. I was informed directly by CN that Mr. Gallery had resigned as vice-chairman, but not as a director.

#### *Business of the House*

It is for that reason that we on this side put a second question to the government. I think it ought to be clear that nobody, on either side, was attempting to mislead this House today.

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I just want to confirm what I said. I checked that out myself with, I believe, people who would normally receive letters of resignation. I can say to the House that Mr. Brian Gallery has resigned as vice-president of the Board and as a director of CN.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think it is very clear, as the hon. member pointed out, that the questions were asked on the basis of answers given earlier. I thank the hon. minister for coming into the House and clarifying the matter.

The hon. member for Trinity—Spadina on a point of order.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, I wish first to commend the hon. member for South Shore on his statement drawing our attention to the fact that this is the beginning of Black History Month. However, since I know the hon. member would not wish to mislead this House intentionally, I wish to advise him of my information that the first black man recorded to arrive in Canada was Matthew De Coste, a black man of Portuguese ancestry, who, as a navigator for Jacques Cartier, arrived on the *St. Lawrence* in 1535.

**Mr. Speaker:** One of the very first Canadians. I thank the hon. member for that information.

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#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

##### WEEKLY STATEMENT

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, this being Thursday, I want to ask the customary question of the government House Leader to enable him to give a statement of government business to this Chamber.

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the House that tomorrow will be an allotted day. Monday we will continue debate on Bill C-62, the goods and services tax bill. Tuesday we will continue debate, and probably finish debate, on Bill C-62.