

ask him if he could give us in general an update about where these talks stand at the moment.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Madam Speaker, the hon. member has used the phrase that the U.S. has pulled back. To the contrary, the U.S. has not pulled back. There has been—if I can call it this—some conventional wisdom in the media to the effect that the Americans are slowing down, but that certainly is not our experience at the negotiating table.

We are in the course of exchanging draft texts to help us move the process along. The Americans have been fully engaged in that. In conversations which I had quite recently with Mr. Mossbacker, who was here earlier this week, and Mrs. Hills, whom I have talked with on this matter two or three times in the last month or so, the administration is fully committed to moving the NAFTA process ahead.

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PRESENCE IN GALLERY

Madam Deputy Speaker: I draw the attention of hon. members to the presence in the gallery of the Hon. Dwain M. Lingenfelter, minister of economic diversification and trade and Government House leader of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to 15 petitions.

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

Routine Proceedings

POINT OF ORDER

COMMENTS DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, may I ask that the Speaker review the "blues" of the question placed by the hon. member for Victoria. I believe within his question were assertions that were out of order.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I thank the hon. member. I will certainly do that and if there was something said which was not correct I will come back to the House.

I thank the hon. parliamentary secretary for bringing this matter to my attention.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for the Status of Women): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to speak today on this first National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women.

I would like to mention the presence in the gallery today of representatives of women's groups who, with many others, worked on the front line in the community to solve the problem of violence against women.

On December 6, 1989, fourteen young women were murdered at the University of Montreal. It was a tragic moment in our history. We will never forget the shock, horror and anger; our sympathy went to the victims' grieving families and friends. Neither will we ever forget the sorrow we felt for society in general.

[English]

The commemoration of this day ensures that the murders at Ecole Polytechnique can never be discounted merely as an act of a solitary madman. It serves as a reminder of the violence that many women experience daily in their homes, in their work places and on the streets.

December 6 marks not only a day of remembrance but also a day of action on violence against women. The memory of the countless women who have been victims