

Routine Proceedings

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Does the Hon. Leader of the Government in the House have the unanimous consent of the House to move the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the statement of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

ALLOCATION OF TIME DURING ALLOTTED DAY

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, if you check with the House you will find unanimous agreement that when we come to Orders of the Day for the discussion of the opposition motion, that the Parties may divide the 20 minute slots among the number of speakers as they so wish.

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, this is something we would very much like to have in place for this debate today, with this one nuance, if I can put it that way, that it should be left to each Party to decide whether they wish to divide up their time for each slot or have that slot used entirely by one speaker.

The concept we have in mind is what was done Monday during the emergency debate on the situation in China.

Mr. Speaker: I understand the situation. I thank the Hon. Member.

• (1110)

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, the Government is also prepared to go along. I think it is a step forward in parliamentary reform that we be able to do this. I agree with my hon. colleague across the way, that it should be up to each Party to decide how to use their 20-minute slots right from the start.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the Hon. Member.

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PETITIONS

VIA RAIL CUT-BACKS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition on behalf of a number of people from Kamloops, British Columbia.

They indicate their concern regarding the Government's decision to curtail VIA Rail services in a number of the regions of the country. They believe that had the Government provided the necessary resources, that VIA could have not only lived up to its mandate but gone beyond its mandate.

They are calling upon the Parliament of Canada to pass legislation, presumably, to maintain and improve and to modernize VIA Rail as opposed to curtailing its service throughout many parts of Canada.

Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty and honour today to present a petition on behalf of residents of the Moose Jaw area who are petitioning the Government with respect to VIA Rail.

It is their concern that the Government provide VIA with the necessary support to fully realize its potential to develop the kind of national rail network that Canadians want and deserve, and they call upon the Government to act immediately.

PORT OF CHURCHILL

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, today we have a delegation coming in to meet with the Minister responsible for Grains and Oilseeds (Mr. Mayer) and the Minister of Transport (Mr. Bouchard) on the Port of Churchill.

I have the honour today to present three petitions signed by residents of the communities of Nipawin, Ridgedale, Arborfield, Garrick, Choiceland, Love, White Fox, Ile des Chênes, Saskatoon and Creighton, Saskatchewan.

Also in Manitoba, Gillam, Bird, Flin Flon, The Pas, Cranberry Portage, Thompson, Sundance, White Lake, Ilford, Churchill, Winnipeg, Brandon, Cowan, St. Martin, Arborg, Dallas, Selkirk, Leaf Rapids, Lynn Lake, Minnedosa, Erickson, Rapid City, Gimli, Dauphin, Lorette, Miniota, Dugald, Morden, Cartwright, Boissevain, Glenbow, Clearwater, Souris and Deleau.