

Routine Proceedings

[English]

POINT OF ORDER

STATEMENT PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Madam Speaker, further to the point of order, I must say for the parliamentary secretary to rise during statements and to engage in debate is something I have never seen happen in the House.

I appreciate the Speaker getting up to indicate her unhappiness with the way things went. On the other hand, the parliamentary secretary has continued to put motives to remarks that I made.

I must say I reviewed *Hansard* very carefully before I made my statement in the House. The parliamentary secretary had said there was conclusive evidence and that gave the impression the health department was unanimous.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I must interrupt the hon. member. We are getting into a point of debate. I did admonish the hon. member for getting back into a debate on this very subject and if I have not accepted what the parliament secretary was saying about debating this subject at this time, I cannot accept what the hon. member is doing either. I do suggest we go to tabling of documents.

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Madam Speaker, I wish to indicate my appreciation for your ruling with respect to your apology to the House. That was the point I wanted to make.

I do want to raise a point about the fact that the person who caused that apology to have to be made was then permitted to stand up and make his entire point. It seems to me at the very least it should be possible for the member for New Westminster—Burnaby to be able to make hers back.

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte): Madam Speaker, it seems clear. The Speaker has ruled and has clarified the matter.

The parliamentary secretary having intervened a second time, the last time he spoke he apologized. The member has quite legitimately and quite properly made her point. Can we get on with the business of the House?

Madam Deputy Speaker: I do agree.

[English]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

THE STATE OF CANADA'S FORESTS

TABLING OF SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of Forestry): Madam Speaker, I have the honour today to table, in both official languages, the second annual report to Parliament on *The State of Canada's Forests*.

Last year you would recall our report was called *The State of Forestry in Canada*. I believe the new name, *The State of Canada's Forests*, much better reflects the government's recognition of the public sensitivities to the multiple use we make of our forests, our dependence on our forests, our international obligations as the owners of 10 per cent of the planet's forest resources.

Public expectations related to the use and restoration of our forests are indeed very high. The issues covered in this year's report present a balanced picture of forestry in Canada reflecting society's demands for both a healthy and strong economy, as well as a healthy and pristine environment.

I trust the information presented in this report will provide a useful basis for facilitating dialogue and decision-making on the future of our forests.

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GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

Mr. Jim Edwards (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 13 petitions.

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

Mr. Fulton: On a point of order, Madam Speaker. Is it not in order for members on this side to say something about the report the minister has just tabled?

Madam Deputy Speaker: No. The hon. member knows this was not a statement by a minister but a very brief explanation while he was tabling the report.