

ings at five o'clock this afternoon to permit the reception by the House of a statement to be made by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Mr. Speaker, the motion should read as follows:

That the House shall revert to Routine Proceedings at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19, 1976 in order to permit the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to make a statement and to table a document; and

That the House shall not adjourn on that day until all proceedings relating to the said statement are completed.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, there have been the discussions to which my hon. friend alluded, but I think it is only fair to say that this consent has been given, or will be given, because on this particular occasion the ministry has seen fit to provide a copy of the statement in advance in sufficient time for the spokesman for the official opposition to prepare his response. I must say that that was not the case last evening. There may well have been reasons why copies were only provided a few minutes in advance last night in the case of our party and five minutes after the statement was started in the case of the NDP.

● (1600)

It is important that in terms of the procedures of the House, and in terms of the intent of the amendment made to the Standing Orders of the House, a copy of the statement be provided to all parties well in advance so that not only the minister's statement may be made but that the comments that are made and the question period that follows can be completely relevant. Surely the object of the rule under which this is being done is that the matter referred to in the statement can be fully covered in terms of the reply, and also that some questions can be put that are reasonable in all the circumstances, and therefore the House time be best used.

The consent given by us today, Sir, is in the spirit of the rules, and I hope that the parliamentary secretary will transmit this message to his chief, the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Sharp), who in turn will take it to his colleagues, that we will not grant consent on all occasions if reasonable time is not given in advance of a statement. In granting consent today I want to make it quite clear that we are prepared to observe our normal parliamentary customs and I hope the government also will be prepared to observe normal parliamentary courtesy with respect to notice, a courtesy which was not followed last night.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my remarks are essentially the same as those made by the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker). As the parliamentary secretary knows, we came very close to denying consent today because we were having difficulty in getting the reports into the hands of our spokesmen on this side. However, there was an agreement to put those reports in their hands; I assume that has been done and on that basis we gave our consent today, but we hope that these remarks will improve the practice in this regard.

Mr. Jones: Mr. Speaker, I think unanimous consent is required and I would like the courtesy of a copy of the statement put before me as well.

Mr. Speaker: Unanimous consent is either forthcoming or it is not—it does not have conditions attached to it.

Order Paper Questions

However, I presume the condition of the hon. member for Moncton (Mr. Jones) can be met, and I therefore assume that unanimous consent has been given and that the House is now prepared to agree that the House shall revert to routine proceedings at 5 p.m. today in order to permit the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to make a statement and to table a document, and that the proceedings shall continue, if necessary, beyond normal adjournment in order to allow the Chair to exercise the discretion given to it in the Standing Order to complete the proper period of questioning. Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 3,865, 3,866, 3,869, 3,893, 3,894, 4,950, 5,033, 5,090, 5,093 and 5,185.

[Text]

RCMP MUSICAL RIDE

Question No. 3,865—**Mr. Nystrom:**

1. Will the RCMP Musical Ride be participating in the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, California, January 1, 1976?
2. Will the Ride be participating in events occurring in Los Angeles or San Francisco and, if so (a) what are the events (b) on what dates (c) in what locations?
3. Will the Ride participate in festivities occurring during "Canada Day" at Disneyland?
4. How many (a) participants of the Ride (b) non-mounted RCMP personnel will be travelling to California and what will be the function of the latter?
5. Who and on what date (a) invited the Ride to participate in the events in California (b) accepted the invitation on behalf of the Ride?
6. Other than the normal salaries paid to personnel participating in the California festivities, what is the (a) cost (b) type of transportation for (i) personnel (ii) horses from Canada to California and return?
7. What is the cost of transportation of (a) personnel (b) horses while in California including a breakdown of cost from one centre to another in the State according to the travel itinerary.
8. What is the total cost of accommodation of (a) personnel (b) horses on a location to location basis?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): In so far as the Department of External Affairs and the RCMP is concerned, the reply is as follows:

1. Yes.
2. Yes. (a) (i) NBC television Pre-Parade Show, (ii) Tournament of Roses Parade, (iii) College East-West All-Star Game (The Shrine Benefit Game), (iv) Canada Bicentennial Salute Weekend at Disneyland. (b) (i) December 30, 1975; (ii) January 1, 1976; (iii) January 3, 1976; (iv) January 3 and 4, 1976; (c) (i) Burbank, California; (ii) Pasadena, California; (iii) Palo Alto, California; (iv) Anaheim, California.