

Government Orders

In urban communities, changes are made with service to our customers as the first priority.

[*English*]

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The hon. member for Skeena, on a point of order.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the parliamentary secretary tabled question No. 217 in my name from February 3, 1992, which was a question on the Order Paper regarding Revenue Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans paid informant program.

Regrettably part of the answer is inaccurate and false. It states:

Fisheries and Oceans does not have an on going paid informant program.

In fact, on February 13, 1992, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans wrote to me laying out the paid informant program that has been operated by his department since 1984, the amount that has been paid out per year, the number of payments that have been made and the results of the information obtained from those informants.

I would ask that the parliamentary secretary give an undertaking to the House that the inaccurate and false information contained in the return be remedied, either through the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans or through the tabling of a further and accurate response to a question placed on the Order Paper.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, I will have to verify the information that the hon. member has put before the House. We will certainly do our best to make certain he does get an accurate and honest answer to his question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*Translation*]

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES WATERS ACT**MEASURE TO ENACT**

The House resumed from Wednesday, March 18, consideration of the motion of Mr. Siddon that Bill C-51, an Act respecting water resources in the Northwest Territories, be read the second time and referred to legislative committee B.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I wish to inform the House that because of the ministerial statement, Government Orders will be extended today by 33 minutes, beginning at 1 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 32(2)(a).

[*English*]

The hon. member for Skeena, I was wrong last night. You have five minutes left in the debate.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, as you will recall last evening I had the remarkable opportunity to enter into the debate on Bill C-51, legislation to amend the water act in terms of the Northwest Territories. It was a peculiar circumstance because the government introduced the legislation and then did not put up any speakers. In fact, for awhile they all vanished. It was truly an unusual state of affairs.

Certainly the residents, the Canadians who live north of 60 in the Northwest Territories are very interested in this piece of legislation. It is a piece of legislation that delegates the authority presently held by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, a piece of legislation that is administered by the bureaucracy here in Ottawa. As you would know, Mr. Speaker, even if one lived in a large community such as Yellowknife, having to wait for licensing and permits to come all the way from Ottawa to deal with water issues in the Northwest Territories is a pretty ridiculous state of affairs. Certainly with the major advances that there have been in terms of the structure of democratically, locally controlled and elected government in the Northwest Territories now led by the hon. Nellie Cournoyea, it is an entirely appropriate time for this kind of delegation of authority.