Government Orders

Hon. Paul Dick (Minister of Supply and Services): With respect to the government and the company First Satellite Communications (a) 20,181.75; (b) April 1, 1991; (c) Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; (d) 20,181.75; (e) communications support services.

[Translation]

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The questions as enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

[English]

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 52

AIRLINE INDUSTRY

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I am in receipt of a notice of motion under Standing Order 52(1) from the hon. member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan.

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, earlier today I wrote to you and asked that you accept the letter I gave you as notice of my intention to rise under the provisions of Standing Order 52 and seek the adjournment of the House to debate an urgent issue of national importance.

Very briefly, for some period Canada's airline industry has had serious financial problems. These problems have now reached critical proportions. In fairness, all airlines service communities from coast to coast to coast. It is a very important national situation. In fact, one of the carriers may be forced to apply for bankruptcy within days, so timing is extremely important.

The Government of Canada is currently examining options for assisting one of the carriers and must make its decision within hours, if not a day or so.

I conclude by saying Parliament has a responsibility and should have the opportunity to assist the government in its decision-making process by having a full and open debate on this issue before the decision is made.

While there will be supply days before our Christmas adjournment, it is extremely unlikely that one will be scheduled before the government responds. Nor will Question Period provide the House with sufficient opportunity to properly explore the options available to Canadians.

It is for this reason that I submit that a debate is urgently required.

[Translation]

SPEAKER'S RULING

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The hon. member has raised a very important matter, but unfortunately in view of the conditions and constraints of Standing Order 52 I cannot entertain the request of the hon. member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan at this time.

[English]

SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAYS

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): It is my duty to inform the House that pursuant to Standing Order 81(8)(b) the total number of allotted days in the supply period ending December 10, 1992 will be reduced by three days. Consequently the total number of allotted days in the supply period, which was fixed at six on Wednesday, September 18, 1992 pursuant to Standing Order 81(8)(c), is now fixed at three.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

PATENT ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed from Thursday, September 17, consideration of the motion of Mr. Blais that Bill C-91, an act to amend the Patent Act, to amend another act in consequence thereof and to provide for related matters, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee in the Departmental envelope.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be able to participate in this debate on Bill C-91, an act to amend the Patent Act.

Members of the House will recall that in January of this past year the government announced its decision to remove compulsory licensing of patented pharmaceuti-