

It must also be understood that the Speaker's only duty in this instance—and I hope this is well understood—is to determine whether the request for an immediate debate meets the requirements of Standing Order 26. One such requirement can be found in Subsection (5) of Standing Order 26, where it is stated that the Speaker "... shall have regard to the probability of the matter being brought before the House within reasonable time by other means".

● (1620)

Let me also quote Citation 287 of *Beauchesne's* fifth edition:

"Urgency" within this rule does not apply to the matter itself, but means "urgency of debate", when the ordinary opportunities provided by the rules of the House do not permit the subject to be brought on early enough and public interest demands that discussion take place immediately.

The Chair cannot ignore the fact that there will be other opportunities to debate this matter during the current supply period.

Therefore, although the subject matter of this application is of the greatest importance and of concern to all members of the House, because of the continuing nature of the problem and because of the fact that other opportunities will arise to deal with this matter, I cannot accept the hon. member's application for an emergency debate.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### POLAND—IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, as you have indicated, I am rising pursuant to Standing Order 26 regarding a matter that is of the utmost urgency. The situation in Poland continues to be critical. It is not clear if military rule will end within the foreseeable future. Meanwhile, food continues to be in extremely short supply. Large numbers of citizens are imprisoned under inhuman conditions. Despite martial law, the economic crisis is deepening and the possibility of default on loans from western banks, including Canadian banks, continues. Many Polish citizens, particularly sailors, have chosen Canada as a place of refuge. Several western governments have begun to apply sanctions against the Soviet Union and Poland and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacGuigan) has indicated that Canada is also considering the possibility of sanctions.

Because Canada's attitude to the imposition of military rule has become significant in Poland itself and within the NATO alliance, because sanctions will have an impact on Canada's economy as well as Poland's and because trade and immigration considerations have given Canada an interest in the course of the crisis, I believe the House of Commons should have the opportunity to register its feelings with the government and the people of Poland on behalf of Canada and to urge the Government of Canada to make it clear that Canadians do not approve of the imposition or the course of martial law in Poland.

## Motion to Adjourn

If Your Honour finds that the Polish crisis raises important issues in Canada's foreign policy on which the House should be heard, I would move at the appropriate time that the House do now adjourn.

**Madam Speaker:** In this particular case the Standing Order states that the matter must be specific and important, requiring urgent consideration, and indeed the subject of the right hon. member's application meets some of these criteria. Hon. members will recall that the House dealt with this subject last December when two motions were proposed and debated and another motion was adopted by the House.

There is no doubt that the right hon. member raises a very important subject, but I cannot ignore the provisions of Standing Order 26(5) which require me to have regard to the extent to which the matter concerns the administrative responsibility of the government or could come within the scope of ministerial action.

The right hon. member has not made that relationship sufficiently clear for me to conclude that there are grounds for allowing debate under the Standing Order, where a debate might demonstrate that some urgent domestic component would resolve or help resolve the particular crisis in Poland, or the impact that the suggestions made in the course of that debate would have inside Canada.

Undoubtedly there will be other avenues that can be pursued in achieving a debate upon this very important subject. As hon. members are aware, tomorrow has been designated as a supply day and the right hon. member may wish to consider this possibility.

Therefore, with regret, I must decline the right hon. member's application.

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS

### MOTION TO ADJOURN

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, I move the adjournment of the House.

**Madam Speaker:** I need a motion in writing from the hon. member.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Madam Speaker, it is on its way.

**Mr. Pinard:** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The hon. member has just moved the adjournment of the House and his motion was not in writing, as is required by the Standing Orders. We on this side of the House are ready to work and Canadians expect this Parliament to work. The NDP wants Parliament to rest and not sit today. That is a shame, Madam Speaker.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Madam Speaker:** I have the motion and it is my duty to put it to the House immediately. It is moved by the hon. member