

## S.O. 21

function which he has been performing in the Government for the Prime Minister. I say that without reflection in any way on his excellent war record.

• (1300)

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin with a brief comment about the dignity and grace with which the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) resigned this morning. I think that nothing in the events thus far has done more credit to him than the manner in which he left his office this morning.

I wish to contrast his manner with the approach taken by the Government House Leader in this debate. If we are to believe the Government House Leader, then we have a Government which won power with vision and leadership and which has been frustrated and destroyed by an irresponsible Opposition. There are some facts which have to be put on the record to show just how ludicrous that suggestion is.

The first is that the Opposition is outnumbered by 211 to 69. It is a massive gap. Within the Government there is a concentration of power because of the number of seats it holds. This is something which in my view is unparalleled in Canadian history.

Second, this is a Government which is dominant in the committees of the House. We have seen in the past week attempts to take this issue before a committee of the House, such as the Standing Committee on Elections, Privileges and Procedure, which have been frustrated by the Conservative majority. This is also true with respect to attempts to take the issue to the Standing Committee on Regional Industrial Expansion. In fact, this is a Government which holds massive power. If it is not exercising its power to give us the vision and leadership which it wishes to give us, then it is the fault of the Government and not the fault of the Opposition.

The debate this morning has centred about the question of the Code of Conduct for Ministers. Again, this is contrary to what the Government House Leader has suggested. In fact, within the code there are a great many subjects covered. One of the subjects which is quite clearly covered is the behaviour of spouses. It is quite clear that the letter of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) which was written in September is considered to be a full part of that Code of Conduct. It makes it the responsibility of each and every individual Minister to take account that such conflicts of interest do not arise.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon) will have 15 minutes in which to conclude his speech after Question Period.

It being 1.05 p.m., I do now leave the chair until 2 p.m. this day.

At 1.05 p.m. the House took recess.

## AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

## CONTRACT TO REFIT DESTROYERS

**Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke):** Mr. Speaker, last Friday the Associate Minister of National Defence (Mr. Andre) attempted to take the maximum credit possible for the award of a \$1.2-billion contract to update four Tribal-class destroyers by waiting until after his ten o'clock press conference had finished before providing me with a copy of his remarks. While the Minister's behaviour represents a break with what is considered common parliamentary decency, he achieved little, since one need only know the history of this program to know that all was complete before the present Government set eyes on it.

The former Liberal Government gave this program preliminary approval in 1980 and final approval in principle in 1984. We see again the Conservative Government's failure and inability to put forward anything new. How long will the Government continue to piggyback on former Liberal programs? Why does the Government need two Ministers of National Defence when all they are doing could be done by half a Minister—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Sixty seconds.

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[Translation]

## POLICE WEEK

## CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY OF OFFICER CLAUDE ST-LAURENT

**Mr. Carlo Rossi (Bourassa):** Mr. Speaker, during Police Week in this country, already two policemen, one in Quebec City and another in Montreal, have been shot down while on duty.

Mr. Speaker, I think we often forget to appreciate the dedication and importance of the police who are prepared to lay down their lives so that Canadians can enjoy the freedom they have.

To the family of Officer Claude St-Laurent, his wife and his three children, I wish to offer my condolences, both personally and on behalf of my party, and as a former colleague of Officer St-Laurent, I share the grief of his colleagues.