

Routine Proceedings

[Translation]

MINING

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology.

The Canada-Quebec Mineral Development Agreement expired in 1990. This agreement met effectively the objectives that were set by the Mulroney and Bourassa governments, but much more needs to be done in mining research and development in Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, my question is this: Will the minister confirm today that discussions are ongoing with the Quebec government to renew this Canada-Quebec agreement to support the Quebec mining industry?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology): Well, this is an excellent question, Mr. Speaker.

I can confirm to the hon. member for Abitibi that the sectorial agreements with Quebec have indeed expired in March 1991. We are now exploring an agreement with the Quebec government, but resources are extremely scarce.

We have already explore the ground regarding the forest industry, as I mentioned earlier. We are looking at the possibilities, Mr. Speaker, and, depending on the outcome of our discussions with the Quebec government, we may eventually come to some form of agreement regarding the mining industry as well.

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[English]

POINT OF ORDER

DECORUM IN CHAMBER

Mr. Larry Schneider (Regina—Wascana): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I have a growing concern with respect to the lack of decorum shown by members in the House of Commons, particularly members who have some previous federal experience.

I happened to view quite by chance Monday evening, while some 2,000 miles away, a speech given by the Liberal House leader, the member from Cape Breton—East Richmond. During his discourse I viewed a most

obscene gesture made by him, a gesture no doubt that he felt would help make his point. I believe, Mr. Speaker, this occurred at about 5.34 p.m. on Monday. I found his gesture to be demeaning. It was an anti-feminist gesture. As a result, I find it repugnant, insensitive and cruel. As a Canadian and member of Parliament, Mr. Speaker, I would urge you to review the video of Monday's proceedings and see if you agree.

I have witnessed as well another member yelling profanities in this Chamber. The Speaker at that time ignored these off-microphone comments. In this particular circumstance, the member returned to apologize. Prior to this, another member refused to take his place when called on by the Speaker. Again off-microphone the member berated the Speaker as well as members in the House.

Mr. Speaker, it is my respectful opinion that if members continue to resort to sensationalism to make headlines, this Chamber may soon become uncontrollable. I sincerely urge your intervention in this matter. Mr. Speaker, is it any wonder that the public is withdrawing its respect for politicians when politicians themselves have no respect for one another.

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member, as well as other hon. members, knows there was no intention with that particular gesture to in any way make reference to any sexism whatsoever. If it offends hon. members, including the one who has spoken, I wish to withdraw.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

TABLING OF 1990 ANNUAL REPORT

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): Mr. Speaker, in my capacity as Acting Minister of State for Housing, pursuant to Standing Order 32(1), I have the honour to present, in both official languages, copies of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's 1990 annual report.