

today to discuss the Syncrude problem, and therefore there should be no subsequent motions. I do not go beyond that to make a future ruling on situations of the sort the hon. member has described.

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[Translation]

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS

##### PROPOSED SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 43— REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, since the NDP is having today the same difficulties we had the other day with regard to Standing Order 43, and since its application is causing some trouble to the Chair, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau):

That the application of Standing Order 43 be immediately suspended in view of its use and interpretation, and be referred to the Committee on Procedure and Organization for study and report to the House.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has not included in the text of his motion that it is made pursuant to Standing Order 43. However, I have to assume that that would be his authority for doing this at this time. I can hardly be taken to disagree that there is a matter of some necessity in the subject matter of the motion.

[Translation]

The House has heard the terms of the motion of the hon. member. Pursuant to Standing Order 43, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There not being unanimous consent, the motion cannot be put.

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[English]

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

##### PROCEDURE TO PERMIT MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES TO MAKE STATEMENT ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1975

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, as the House is aware, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) will be making another statement tomorrow. We have had some discussions among the House leaders as to the best procedure that would give an opportunity for a full discussion and questioning of the minister, and therefore I should like to put forward an order in the following terms:

That at 8 p.m. on Thursday, February 6, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources shall make a statement, and after the said statement a spokesman for each of the parties in opposition shall comment upon the statement,

#### Interpretation Act

and after the comments of the said spokesmen members may question the minister on the said statement until the ordinary hour of adjournment.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I understand from conversations with my colleague the government House leader that this is to be a rather extensive statement. Before I give consent on behalf of the official opposition in respect to this matter, I should like to be assured by the government House leader that under reasonable circumstances, which he and I could discuss, ample opportunity will be given all opposition parties to review the statement the minister is about to make, in view of its length. For this reason, I wonder whether Your Honour would put this matter over until a little later in the afternoon, and perhaps my hon. friend and I could discuss this matter further.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Who is your friend?

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** The government House leader is always my friend.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question has been put forward at the present time. It can become an order of the House at this moment only by unanimous consent. If unanimous consent is not forthcoming at this time, I cannot put it.

[Translation]

Does the hon. member for Bellechasse raise the question of privilege?

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. A number of workers from the textile industry are now in front of the Parliament buildings to claim some of their rights, seeking to protect their jobs.

I had earlier the opportunity to meet some of the workers from Montmagny. They would very much like to meet government authorities. I would therefore ask the Prime Minister, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gillespie), if he would authorize a member of the cabinet to meet these workers to reassure them on their requests, and thus prevent that they remain here too long. This is wintertime, some consideration should be shown.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker I rise on a point of order. To clarify the situation, I would say that on the request of our caucus, I will meet the delegation when the question period is over.

**Mr. Speaker:** My impression is that is well understood.

\* \* \*

[English]

#### INTERPRETATION ACT

##### AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR USE OF NEUTRAL WORD RATHER THAN MASCULINE OR FEMININE GENDER

**Mrs. Simma Holt (Vancouver-Kingsway)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-376, to amend the Interpretation Act.

**Some hon. Members:** Explain.