

limited to 20 minutes, but I think it would be necessary to set the record straight for the future.

I would simply remind you that pursuant to Standing Order 36.(1) the length of speeches and comments in response . . . I will read the Standing Order:

36. (1) Unless otherwise provided in these Standing Orders, when the Speaker is in the Chair, no Member, except the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, or a Minister moving a government order and the Member speaking in reply immediately after such Minister, shall speak for more than twenty minutes—

Today, Mr. Speaker, you gave the floor to the Parliamentary Secretary of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Vincent) who spoke on behalf of the Minister, or so I thought. When you recognized the Member of the Opposition who replied or responded to whomever I thought was the Minister—his Parliamentary Secretary or the Minister, it is the same to us—you told me that the limit was 20 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, in the future would it be possible to know if, in a case like this—perhaps I should have risen after the Minister's motion and asked you to give me the floor before giving it to the Parliamentary Secretary, but according to our tradition we do not do that, we let the Minister or his Parliamentary Secretary make his remarks—Mr. Speaker, could we have this matter cleared up next week, namely how should we interpret the Standing Order in the future?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am quite aware of the fact that Standing Order 36.(1) can be interpreted in two different ways, and that is why I will ensure that you are given a final ruling on this matter next week.

[English]

It being four o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND GOODWILL DAY ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington) moved that Bill C-258, an Act respecting International Peace and Goodwill Day, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to present to this House for consideration and second reading debate an Act respecting International Peace and Goodwill Day. The purpose of this legislation is to change the name associated with December 26 from Boxing Day to International Peace and

International Peace and Goodwill Day Act

Goodwill Day in honour of Canada's commitment to world peace. This Bill is a direct result of my great concern about the world's present situation and what kind of future we are building for ourselves. I strongly believe that we are masters of our own fate. We, as Members of Parliament representing peace-loving Canadians, have an opportunity to further stress the importance of international peace and goodwill by supporting this initiative.

Never before in the history of the world has there been a more crucial time to demonstrate the need for peace and goodwill. We are living in a world constantly threatened by nuclear war. We are collectively held hostage in fear as each new act of terrorism is committed. Acts of terrorism and the build-up of nuclear arms must be stopped.

Nuclear war became a very real threat to the world once the first nuclear bomb was dropped on Japan. This event was recently brought to our minds yet again when His Excellency the Prime Minister of Japan spoke to this House. No other country has experienced the horrible reality and aftermath of nuclear war. We have a duty to ourselves and the rest of the world to ensure that this does not happen again.

Somehow we have been sidetracked in our peaceful goal. Instead of trying to stop the growth in numbers of nuclear weapons, we became obsessed with equalling our powers, not limiting them. We have lived in a world where the major global powers have been consumed with preparing for a nuclear war, not preventing one. There are presently enough nuclear weapons to kill, several times over, each human being on earth.

In that past year we have seen some very real and positive steps taken toward limiting the arms race. It was most heartening to see the two superpowers, President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, come together for the first time in a summit meeting on disarmament. The Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) reminded us yesterday that decades ago Canada chose not to acquire nuclear weapons. This was a practical contribution to the control of nuclear arms. We are continuing to encourage and facilitate any meetings or discussions to further the goal of world peace.

The whole world seems to be growing in its awareness of the terror and futility of nuclear war. The United Nations has designated 1986 as International Peace Year. This comes at a time when all citizens of the world are becoming more and more aware of the need and urgency to seek lasting peace. Mr. Speaker, we are responsible for the future of this planet, and we have not been doing a very good job. It is time we took stock of what our actions have brought about. We must take a close look at the obvious consequences we will face if we allow this world situation to worsen. We must redirect our thinking and rid ourselves of any arrogance toward earth and each other and replace those negative attitudes with respect and love for this planet. It is our home and we are responsible for the shape of things to come. Our citizens are crying out for world peace. We have a duty to seek that which our citizens want.