COMMONS DEBATES

languages, as far as the Table has got, is available to all Members.

Mr. Speaker: I think I told the Hon. Member for Ottawa— Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) that copies would be available soon. It might not be quite as soon as I thought a few moments ago. Would the House allow me to consult with my officers for just a moment?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. There have been discussions among the House Leaders and we think in view of the circumstances and in view of the importance of the matter before the Chair, and our wish to have every Member of the House in a position to understand your ruling in both official languages, that it would be appropriate to suspend the sitting until 11 a.m. and then commence the normal Statements by Members followed by Question Period. If the ruling is ready, once Orders of the Day are called after Routine Proceedings we could perhaps be in a position then to receive your ruling in both official languages.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate very much the co-operation of Members. First, let me say this. There are 102 motions that were received by six o'clock last night. I repeat, 102 motions. I also point out that a great many people worked well beyond midnight last night to prepare at least part of the ruling on these amendments in order to try to meet the exigencies of today.

I also point out that it was not possible to have in place translators after midnight last night. This is nobody's fault. It is just a fact of life. I have to say that until early this morning the document was not completely finished in any event.

I should also add that I will have to make a further ruling on other amendments which we have not been able to consider. I see some sympathy expressed by House Leaders and I appreciate that also.

I thank the Hon. Minister of State (Mr. Lewis) after consultation with the House Leaders for his suggestion. I think that perhaps is an appropriate way to deal with the matter. We may not by noon have the entire ruling fully translated, but we will have enough of it translated to get started on the debate.

[Translation]

I want to say that I greatly appreciate the statement by the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier). There is a problem, but the principle is not at issue today, not at all. So I would ask for the cooperation of all Members, especially the francophones.

[English]

SITTING SUSPENDED

Mr. Speaker: The sitting is adjourned until eleven o'clock. We will resume for Question Period at that time, followed by Routine Proceedings. I will then return with the ruling.

At 10.19 a.m. the sitting of the House was suspended.

SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 11 a.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21 [English]

TOURISM

EFFECT OF OLDMAN RIVER DAM ON ALBERTA TOURIST INDUSTRY

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, last week the Friends of the Oldman River laid charges against the Province of Alberta for violating Section 33 of the federal Fisheries Act because construction of a dam on the Oldman River would destroy habitat for brown, brook and cutthroat trout. These fish are of great value to Alberta's tourism and recreation industry.

In addition, the proposed reservoir would flood Indian burial sites, ancient inscriptions carved in stone and ceremonial grounds of the Peigan Indians. Damming one of the only undammed rivers left in southern Alberta would destroy the ecology and native lifestyle of the area for the sake of irrigation for some 300 land owners. It simply does not make sense.

We urge the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) to prosecute the Government of Alberta on the charges laid by the Friends of the Oldman River, and to subject the Oldman Dam project to the federal environmental assessment and review process. The Oldman River is a treasure worth saving in its pristine beauty.

HUMAN RIGHTS

VISIT OF POLISH SOLIDARITY LEADER TO CANADA

Mr. Andrew Witer (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, Andrzej Gwiazda, Vice-Chairman of the Polish trade union movement Solidarity, and his spouse Joanna, are presently visiting Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Gwiazda, along with other Solidarity leaders such as Lech Walesa, Anna Walentynowicz, Alina Pinkowsa and Bohdan Lis, began a heroic struggle for the advancement of fundamental human rights in Poland which resulted in the establishment in 1980 of Solidarity, the first free and democratic trade union behind the Iron Curtain.

Despite years of imprisonment, Andrzej and Joanna Gwiazda carry on their courageous work for Solidarity's goal; that the state should serve man and not rule over him, and remind us that the struggle for justice and freedom continues in Poland. I call upon all Members of the House to join with me in welcoming Mr. and Mrs. Gwiazda to Canada and in expressing our admiration for their tremendous contribution to the cause of freedom and fundamental human rights.

18258