

Point of Order—Mr. Fulton

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the mandate is an illusion of the Hon. Member.

Mr. Crosbie: Of which he has many.

[Translation]

INQUIRY CONCERNING WHICH MINISTER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SHIPBUILDING AND IF GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO WITHDRAW MR. SAUNDERS' ALLEGED MANDATE

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the same Minister. Can he explain the contradiction between the statement of the Minister of State for Small Businesses, who says that there have been no instructions, and the statement made last Wednesday by this same Minister, who then confirmed that the Government had asked Mr. Saunders to prepare a plan for rationalizing the shipbuilding industry in Quebec?

Which Minister is responsible for the shipbuilding industry? Finally, is the Government planning to withdraw its instructions to Mr. Saunders?

● (1500)

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the Hon. Member across the way does not listen to answers. I have said before, and he knows, that there needs to be some rationalization in the shipbuilding industry. That rationalization is being discussed among all the players within the shipbuilding industry itself. That should certainly be clear enough to him. All the players in the shipbuilding industry are involved in the discussions.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It is three o'clock.

I have received a note with respect to a desire to raise a point of order by the Hon. Member for Skeena arising out of Question Period.

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POINT OF ORDER

REQUEST TO REVERT TO MOTIONS

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I would like to test the House to see if there is unanimous consent to revert to Motions to consider the following motion:

That this House endorse the view of the Secretary—

Mr. Gauthier: How did he get the floor?

Mr. Speaker: I think the Hon. Member knows that a motion under a point of order is improper. Therefore it is difficult to ask to revert to Motions under a point of order. That is my dilemma. I have to rule that the Hon. Member is not raising a

point of order. He may have a matter he wishes to raise when he has the floor on debate. Does the Hon. Member have a point of order?

Mr. Fulton: Yes. What I am asking for, Mr. Speaker, and I have discussed this with both the House Leaders, is whether or not there is unanimous consent to revert to Motions so I can put a very brief motion to the House.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, there was a discussion but there was no resolution to that discussion.

Mr. Speaker: The House indicated earlier that at three o'clock it wished to revert to Statements by Ministers. That was agreed to at the time. Therefore, reverting to Statements by Ministers, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise).

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

THE ENVIRONMENT

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that any of the difficulties which might have occurred this morning have been dealt with. Therefore, that allows me to proceed on behalf of my colleague, the Hon. Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan), to make the following statement on his behalf.

Today is World Environment Day and, as Hon. Members know, it was the intention of the Minister of the Environment, the Hon. Member for Hillsborough, to make a statement to the House marking both the day and Environment Week. Late yesterday, however, the Minister was called home to be with his wife at the birth of their child.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wise: I therefore have the pleasant task of making the following statement on his behalf.

In the past 10 days Canada has played host to the World Commission on Environment and Development, the Brundtland Commission, as well as the World Conservation Strategy. Next week the Fate of the Earth Conference opens in Ottawa. Senior politicians, officials and non-government organizations have been discussing vital international problems in the environment. My colleague, the Minister of State for External Relations (Mrs. Vézina), was warmly received by the Brundtland Commission when she assured its members that Canada is emphasizing the need for environmental awareness in assessing foreign aid projects.