

• (9:30 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Is the House ready for the question? Is the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) rising on a point of order.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, while it is true that we only agreed to have one speaker from each party, and although I do not want to trespass on the agreement, would the minister be prepared to answer a very brief question?

Mr. Speaker: My understanding is that an order of the House was made. This would require unanimous consent of hon. members. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Peace River.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, my question is based on a statement made by the hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Beaudoin). Is the minister able to tell us very briefly and succinctly about his experience with the provincial governments in this very sensitive area and what are the prospects of being able to work out reasonable agreements with the provincial governments in connection with problems particularly relating to housing and certain aspects of urban affairs? We are all interested in this and we are wishing the minister well, but we would like to know what his experience has been in this regard.

Mr. Speaker: Again it is only with the unanimous consent of the House that the minister is allowed to speak for a second time during the course of this debate.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to answer as succinctly as possible. I have no signed, sealed or delivered agreements in writing that this or that will happen with regard to provincial reactions. Every province is fully aware of the proposed creation of a ministry of state for urban affairs, and in fact has been since the throne speech last October. Each province was represented—and I think this is a more formal indication of their reactions—at the tri-level meetings at Winnipeg in April by their provincial minister of municipal affairs with whom I have had bilateral and collective discussions over the whole range of matters and principles involved.

In addition, there were indications of their commitment to these principles and an acceptance of the federal government's actions in this regard. That is the only way I can read the situation, having talked to them. I have had discussions with some of the first ministers of the provinces and have had no adverse comments or reactions thus far. As I have said, we established a committee at Winnipeg consisting of a representative of each minister of municipal affairs. My officials have had a meeting with Mr. Dan Campbell, Minister of Municipal Affairs of British Columbia, at which was discussed the relationship between the federal and provincial governments in regard to municipal and urban affairs in light of the creation of this new ministry. Progress is being made and

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I have seen no discouraging comments. Time alone will tell.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) rising for the purpose of asking a question? Would the hon. member resume his seat. I have to remind hon. members that there is an order of the House to the effect that there is to be one speaker from each party and then the question is to be put. If hon. members wish to pursue the debate until 9.45, this can be done with unanimous agreement. I think the hon. member for Hamilton West, who is now seeking the floor, can speak with the unanimous consent of the House, but before the Chair recognizes him I believe the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) wishes to raise a point of order.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Yes, Mr. Speaker. My point of order is the same one that I raised when a few days ago we debated the proposal for the establishment of a ministry of state for science and technology. On that occasion we agreed to append to that day's *Hansard* a copy of the draft proclamation that had been laid on the table. I make the same suggestion again tonight. I am not commenting on the contents of the draft proclamation but I think it should be part of the record. I suggest the House give consent to the proposed draft, which was laid on the table on Friday, being made an appendix to today's *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members have heard the suggestion made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. Is it agreed that the document to which he referred be made an appendix to today's official report of the House of Commons proceedings?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Editor's Note: For document referred to above, see appendix.]

Mr. Alexander: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, when I entered the House at the time you were disposing of the question that came from our House leader, I was under the impression that questions were in order with the general agreement of this House. I was also aware that each party had the opportunity of putting forth their main speaker to delve into the positions taken by the respective parties. Therefore, it was not with the expectation that I would be recognized to speak that I rose, but rather to ask a question. If I am in order, I ask whether your Honour would ascertain if there is general agreement—

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member appears to have the agreement of hon. members to ask his question.

Mr. Alexander: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very impressed with the minister's statement with respect to the new ministry. I want to congratulate him for accepting the advice of the opposition, though in part he did not go far enough. We had asked for a department of