

*Speaker's Ruling*

Transport or the Minister of Transport does not have the authority to stop the NTA in that kind of investigation.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Haldimand—Norfolk, on a point of order.

**Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk):** Mr. Speaker, as you know, this morning at eleven o'clock I was not in my seat. As you also know, I made a request under Standing Order 52 to be heard by you for an emergency debate on the very crucial situation in my riding regarding the Hagersville tire fire. I am wondering if we might find unanimous consent to revert to S. O. 52s, because at eleven o'clock I was in a very important discussion regarding this matter and I was not able to hear your decision on that.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member seeks to revert to Routine Proceedings. The hon. member was very frank with the House. He was not in his seat when the matter ordinarily would have been called. I had notice of it, of course. I am in the hands of the House.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, for our part we understand that from time to time members cannot be in their place to make applications under Standing Order 52. In view of the importance of the issue, we are prepared to hear the application now.

**Mr. Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** I rise on the same point, Mr. Speaker. The New Democratic Party would be only too pleased to allow the member to proceed.

**Mr. Speaker:** I thank the hon. member.

The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Haldimand—Norfolk.

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**MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 52****HAGERSVILLE FIRE**

**Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk):** Mr. Speaker, I will not indulge the House, and I thank all parties for allowing me to do this.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, you received a letter from me today regarding the very crucial situation in my riding concerning the Hagersville tire fire.

As the minister knows, I specifically requested a debate on this issue to let Canadians and, indeed, the people in my riding know the government's response to this matter.

**HAGERSVILLE FIRE—SPEAKER'S RULING**

**Mr. Speaker:** I thank the hon. Minister of Justice and the hon. member from the New Democratic Party for extending the courtesy to the hon. member for Haldimand—Norfolk who naturally is extremely concerned about the matter, as are all hon. members.

This is not his first application, as hon. members will know, nor is it the only application that I have had for an emergency debate.

However, I have to say—and I say this specifically to Canadians living in that area—that the whole House, and it has been made very clear treats the matter as very, very serious indeed. There has been extensive discussion in the House over the last several days with respect to the situation and with respect to what, if anything, this House could do to expedite the solution of the matter or to encourage assistance to be given.

There have been comments on the government side and on the opposition side which indicate a sense here in the House that any help that could be given would be given.

But I must say that serious as it is, with respect to the exchanges and possible exchanges we may have, it would not be appropriate to adjourn the proceedings of the day and move to an emergency debate.

I do want to say to the hon. member and to other hon. members who have raised this matter that I treat it as serious. I think that there can be some assurance to the public that the House has treated it as very serious indeed.

I thank the hon. member for bringing the matter to our attention.

**BUDGET STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE—SPEAKER'S RULING**

**Mr. Speaker:** This morning the hon. member for Kamloops raised a point of order concerning the budget presentation which will be delivered later this day. He wished to obtain clarification as to whether or not the questions and comments period which generally applies to members speaking for 20 minutes should apply to the upcoming speech by the Minister of Finance on the budget.