

Routine Proceedings

transfer of Canadian fresh water by interbasin transfer to the United States or northern Mexico, ever?

• (1500)

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): The hon. member uses the word "ever". I am not going to be around here forever. I am not aware of this particular agreement to which the hon. member is referring. If he would give me an opportunity to brief myself on it I will give him the answer.

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POINT OF ORDER**QUESTION PERIOD**

Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to report a breach of the Standing Orders. Referring to section 37(1) and also the same rules in Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules, section 409 says that a preamble need not exceed one carefully drawn sentence. Section 410 states that supplementary questions require no preamble.

Mr. Speaker, of 35 questions asked today, it is hard to tell exactly but it looks like almost 30 questions were in breach of those Standing Orders. I would just like to comment that if all members kept their questions according to the rules as outlined in the Standing Orders and in Beauchesne, we would all have more questions.

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PRESENCE IN GALLERY

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw the attention of hon. members to the presence in the gallery of the Hon. John Richard Johnson, President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, Australia.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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POINT OF ORDER**COMMENTS DURING QUESTION PERIOD**

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): During the course of Question Period I inadvertently stated that we have the highest taxes in the world. Mr. Speaker, I misspoke myself and what I should have said was that we have the

fastest rising taxes in the western world. I wanted to correct the record.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION**TABLING OF EIGHTY-FIFTH REPORT OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE**

Mr. Jean-Marc Robitaille (Terrebonne): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 34(1), I have the honour to table in the House, in both official languages, the report of the Canadian group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. This report was drafted by the official delegation representing Canada at the 85th Inter-Parliamentary Conference held in Pyongyang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from April 29 to May 4, 1991.

[English]

Madam Deputy Speaker: It would be useful to the Speaker if people who are not seeking the floor would sit down. It is very difficult to know who is seeking the floor or not. Thank you.

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CRIMINAL CODE**MEASURE TO AMEND**

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-228, an act to amend the Criminal Code (mental disorder).

He said: The purpose of this bill is to update the provisions of the Criminal Code with respect to mentally disturbed accused persons. The bill is, in fact, not of my own authorship. It was one that was proposed in a white paper prepared by the Minister of Justice about three years ago. The hon. member for St. John's East was the Minister of Justice at that time, which gives some indication of the age of the document. But nothing has been done on the issue since that date.

The bill is introduced for the purpose of moving this issue along with some speed. I would hope that the government might consider referring the bill to a committee so that it could be studied there and enacted at an early date. This might assist the government in its dealings with these persons as a result of the Supreme Court of Canada's recent decision on this issue.