

ments on Bill C-84. This one copy has been available even though by special order the deadline for filing such amendments or motions was noon today. One copy of it has been made available to each party and as other copies are made available they, too, will be distributed. We hope to publish an order paper in proper form, despite its volume and the shortness of notice, as quickly as possible. I hope hon. members will bear in mind the shortness of time and importance of the subject and will join me in recognizing that the staff, who worked most diligently to produce this document in a short space of time, deserve our congratulations.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Oberle: Mr. Speaker, I always hesitate to rise on a point of order to question Your Honour's ruling, and I do so reluctantly today. My point of order relates to the question I asked the Minister of National Revenue in which I referred to serious allegations regarding a massive tax fraud. If the allegations are correct, it would be cheaper for Canadian taxpayers today to defraud the government.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member's point of order relates to his inability to be recognized for a third question, he has lots of company in that regard today. If his point of order is to that effect, I will be glad to hear it. But if it is simply a disagreement with the answer given by the minister, it does not constitute a point of order.

Mr. Oberle: Mr. Speaker, perhaps a question of privilege might better identify my concern. I asked the minister whether an investigation into this serious matter is under way, and the minister, in answering my question, did not say whether such investigation was under way. Surely to God it is the right and privilege of members of this House and the Canadian public to know whether such an investigation is under way. I see the minister has left the House—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The substance of the ruling was that the hon. member had asked the question and received a response from the minister. If the hon. member is not satisfied with the answer to the question, that is a matter of disagreement.

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[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF DELEGATION FROM TOGO

Miss Monique Bégin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am sure all my colleagues on both sides of the House will want to join me to welcome and acknowledge the presence in our gallery of an official delegation from Togo, the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ayi Hunlede; the Minister of Economy and Finance, Mr. Kodjo and the Minister of the Plan, Commerce, Industry and Transport, Mr. Dogo.

Pensions

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TABLING OF JOINT DECLARATION OF PARTICIPANTS IN SUMMIT CONFERENCE AT PUERTO RICO

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 41(2), I should like to table a copy of the joint declaration issued yesterday at the conclusion of the summit meeting held in Puerto Rico on June 27 and 28.

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PENSIONS

TABLING OF REPORT ON PRIVATE RETIREMENT PROGRAMS

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 41(2), I should like to table two copies, in both official languages, of the report on private disability retirement and survivor programs, submitted by the Canada Pension Plan Advisory Committee in May 1976.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I wish to raise a point of order. The hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie, in his question, managed to make two statements which, if left on the record, would not be according to fact. I point out, first, that we do not have in Canada a demonstrated case of Minamata disease; there is a suspected case which is not yet confirmed. The Indian concerned is being examined today in Winnipeg and we will have a report on that subject later.

Second, the survey made in Indian reserves is not a random survey. The two reserves concerned have a population of 954. In early May we had already examined over 800 people—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Frequently I recognize opposition members to give a minister the opportunity to correct an impression which may be left on the record. The first part of the minister's point of order surely may have something to do with that, that is to say, whether or not there has been an established case of the particular disease mentioned. The second part was simply an amplification of his answer and ought not to be permitted at this time.

Mr. Symes: Mr. Speaker, if I may rise on the same point of order, I do not know in what kind of hair-splitting the minister is indulging since my question was strictly limited; I was asking whether the ministry is taking blood samples on an ongoing, continuing basis. According to my information, this is not taking place with respect to every individual on the reserves, and I was asking about that.

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HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION

TABLING OF FINAL REPORT

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table copies, in both official languages,