

*Tabling of Documents*

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I will take the position of the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) as notice and see what will be made available.

**Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody):** Madam Speaker, I was hoping to be recognized before that point of order in the dying minutes of the question period to ask a question of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) to which I have given him notice. May I proceed? No order of the day has been called.

**Madam Speaker:** The hon. member is telling me, if I understood him, that he now wants to put a question to a minister. I must reply that the question period is over and, of course, I cannot recognize the hon. member.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

## TRANSPORT

Third report of Standing Committee on Transport—Mr. Maltais.

[Editor's note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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## WAYS AND MEANS

## TABLING OF NOTICE

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 60, I would like to table in both official languages notice of ways and means motion to amend the Petroleum Administration Act, and ask you to designate the order of the day necessary for the consideration thereof.

[English]

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, I have no question about the propriety of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) moving this motion, as he has done at this time. However, obviously his actions raise some very serious questions on a Friday afternoon as the House is two or three hours from adjournment as to what has developed in vital negotiations in the country that might cause the minister to act.

I am sure there would be agreement on this side of the House—and I have not had an opportunity to consult with my colleagues in the New Democratic Party—for the minister to take a moment or two to indicate what reasons have led him to follow the action he has just now followed.

[Translation]

**Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council):** The right hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) has no valid point of order under the rules. Standing Order 60(1) is quite clear. When a minister wishes to give notice of a ways and means motion, he has only to follow the procedure used today by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde). There is nothing in the rules whereby the minister should make a statement or this House or the government should agree to any kind of debate on the reasons for this motion or the impact of the motion. Eventually the notice of motion will be followed by the motion and legislation based on the ways and means motion, and at that point the House of Commons will have ample opportunity to discuss the substance of the provisions included in the notice tabled today. Of course, I appreciate the political concerns of the Leader of the Opposition. But since he rose on a point of order, I submit he does not have a valid one.

[English]

**Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, the member as government House leader is quite right in his dissertation of the rules. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) had asked whether or not the House would give its consent, and I assume there would be consent given at this time for an explanation by the minister.

The minister could, as my friend knows, make a statement on motions. Will he make a statement on motions? If there is a requirement for unanimous consent to do that, we are prepared to give our consent. We know what the rules say. What we are talking about here is a matter of some import, and it is a matter of extending a courtesy here in the House of Commons on a Friday afternoon in respect of a matter that has caused the government to move in what must be a most unusual way. That is really the point.

Having said that, would the government House leader be prepared as a matter of courtesy to consider allowing one of those processes that would right now permit the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) to make the statement that obviously the Leader of the Opposition and other members would like to have made?

[Translation]

**Mr. Pinard:** I admit the House leader of the Progressive Conservative party (Mr. Baker) knows the rules. He asked that we be courteous and agree today to something that would please his party politically. Often we would also like the rule to be waived and the opposition to show more courtesy so we could dispose of legislation more rapidly. It is obvious, Madam Speaker, that all the Leader of the Opposition or his House leader have to do is to look at the notice of motion that is self-explanatory and they will then get the answers to their questions. As far as we are concerned, I regret to say I am not in a position to give him the consent he is asking for today any more than the opposition, I am convinced, is in a position to