

Petroleum Incentives Program Act

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, I too would like to join in this debate. I notice I only have three minutes to add my comments to the Bill which is before the House—

Mr. Towers: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Once you have started to put the question, is debate not completed?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): I had not yet put the question to the House. I did see the Hon. Member for Sudbury rise before the question had even been put. There seemed to be some hesitancy about whether or not he was going to rise.

Mr. Frith: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, the reason you saw some hesitancy was that I thought when you said "question" and Hon. Members opposite were saying "question", there was a question to be put to my colleague, the Hon. Member for Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador (Mr. Rompkey), so I was not clear as to whether or not the question to be put was a question to my colleague or the question on the motion. I am glad that I am able to clarify that for your help and judgment.

I want to indicate that—

Mr. Mayer: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like a little clarification. It is my understanding that once the Chair rises and begins to put the question, in fact that is the termination of the period allocated for debate. I think if the Chair would like to check the "blues", it will see that the Chair had begun to put the question. So regardless of any misunderstanding of Hon. Members across the floor, it would seem to me that once the Speaker rises to put the question, that signals termination of debate.

Mr. Rompkey: May I make a contribution to that same point of order, Mr. Speaker? It was my understanding that the Hon. Member opposite was rising to ask a question because I did not think the 10 minutes had expired. Questions had been asked and I had been answering. I was waiting for a question to come from across the way. The clear understanding on this side was that there were further questions to be raised in the question period.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): The Chair having determined that the question had not been put to the House and having recognized the Hon. Member for Sudbury for the purpose of resuming debate, things will stand there.

It now being one o'clock I do now leave the Chair until two o'clock p.m.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 22

[English]

DISASTERS**EXPLOSION OF SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER**

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, no one who watched the television reports of the explosion of the NASA space shuttle earlier today can remain unmoved by this tragic and horrible event.

I and the members of my Party join with the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), as I am sure do all Members of the House and every Canadian, in expressing our shock and dismay to the President of the United States on this terrible accident, and in offering our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of the brave and courageous astronauts. Our hearts go out to them all. Canadians have closely followed the progress of the space shuttle program and have participated with the production of the Canadarm, and even with our own astronaut, Marc Garneau.

With the enormous advances we have made in the area of high technology, it is sometimes easy as human beings to forget the great risks involved and the great personal bravery of those courageous men and women who are exploring the frontiers of space. As we have shared from time to time in the joy of the adventure, so we share in the sorrow of this tragic event.

[Translation]

To the families of the astronauts we offer our sincere condolences at this time of suffering.

[English]

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I join with the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), who spoke earlier to the country outside the Chamber on this important matter, and with the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) in extending our profoundest sympathies to the Government of the United States and, most directly, to the families of the men and women who were killed today in this unfortunate tragedy.

Indeed it is the case that men and women who are on the frontier of knowledge in this important domain experience extraordinary risks. It is extremely sad that we have encountered the results of those risks today in the loss of such good and decent people whose work will one day benefit us all.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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AGRICULTURE**SITUATION OF SUGAR-BEET INDUSTRY**

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, sugar-beet producers in Canada are in a situation of crisis and need immediate help. If the Government does not take the necessary steps immediately, 3,000 jobs will be lost. Those