

applications under DISC has now stabilized or whether it is still increasing? Is the minister now in a position to tell us the number of DISC applications and also disclose their names?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I have some very fat figures somewhere. I will give them to the hon. member after the question period. At the end of April it was somewhere around 2,000.

• (1150)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair expressed the opinion in respect of a similar question a moment ago seeking statistical information that this kind of question ought normally to be placed on the order paper or considered at the time of adjournment.

Mr. Nystrom: May I ask a further supplementary question. Will the minister say whether the number of applications has now stabilized or is it growing? I think this is important to Canadians.

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I am trying to remember, but my impression is that it was about 1,700 at the end of the previous month and 2,000 at the end of last month, which is an increase of about 300 to 400 a month.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

REQUEST BY ALLIANCE THAT REGIONAL RATES OF PAY BE ABOLISHED

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board and deals with the recommendation of the Public Service Alliance of Canada that pay zones be scrapped. Will the minister now consider having equal pay rates for federal employees across the country?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the formal representations from the Public Service Alliance on regional pay rates do not exactly jibe with the statement the hon. member has just made.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

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BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

On the order: Consideration of the Business of Supply.

Mr. Speaker: My understanding is that perhaps the best way to proceed, in view of the discussions last night, would be to call the two supply motions one after the other. I believe there is an understanding that if they are not proceeded with we would then, according to the Standing Orders, revert to government business.

[Translation]

Mr. Gauthier: Stand.

Oil Pollution

[English]

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, for the reasons given last night by my leader and our House leader, I do not wish to proceed with our motion at this time.

Mr. Speaker: Stand.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

POLLUTION

CHERRY POINT OIL SPILL—PROPOSED REFERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

The House resumed consideration of the motion (Mr. Pringle):

That in the light of the damage in Canada and the United States arising from the recent oil spill at the Cherry Point Refinery this House support the urgency of a reference to the International Joint Commission of the environmental consequences of the movement of oil in the narrow waters of the Straits of Juan de Fuca, Georgia Strait, and Puget Sound both now and in the future and of the measures necessary to minimize the hazards, and requests the Secretary of State for External Affairs to immediately convey the terms of this motion to the Government of the United States.

And on the amendment thereto of Mr. Nielsen (p. 2969).

[Translation]

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Joliette on a point of order.

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, I regret having to ask you further information. I would like to know whether the House still needs the unanimous consent to resume consideration of the motion of the hon. member for Fraser Valley East (Mr. Pringle).

Mr. Speaker: Not today.

[English]

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a word about the reasons for giving up our opposition day today. It is clear to me and to my colleagues that if the motion of the hon. member for Fraser Valley East (Mr. Pringle) was serious and considered to be serious by the government, and if the Liberal party in this House was not merely playing politics but was concerned about the motion having the support of this Parliament, then it was wrong and undesirable for the government to have adjourned the debate yesterday so the motion would hang on the order paper for God knows how long. If, on the other hand, the government members as well as all of us in the opposition considered the matter raised by the hon. member for Fraser Valley East to be serious, and that a unanimous approach by this Parliament to the government of the United States would be useful, necessary and desirable, then the debate on that motion ought to have been completed as soon as possible. The vote on the motion should have been taken as soon as possible,