

Tabling of Documents

litterature in front of us and claim that is what we are indeed debating.

The purpose of Standing Order 108 is very clear. The House of Commons must have a complete document. That is what we should be debating. That is why we have a first reading, second reading, committee study and third reading, so we can deal with legislation in a proper form and go through the proper procedures. We have not done that.

I would submit the Government has failed to present a proper Bill in a complete form. The Government has admitted that time after time over the last few hours. It has admitted it has broken the rule which says that no Bill may be introduced either in blank or in imperfect shape. Because the Government has broken not only the intent but the actual wording of Section 108, I submit the Chair has no choice—it always has a choice, but I would think it is necessary for the Chair to say that this Bill has not been presented correctly and, therefore, it cannot be acceptable for debate at this time.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair thanks Hon. Members for their interventions. I think there is a general disposition in the Chamber to close off debate on this quite interesting point. I will not take the risk of prolonging debate by posing any further questions to Hon. Members. Therefore, if there are no other Hon. Members rising, we will continue for now with Routine Proceedings.

In any event, I want to make it clear that I will have to reserve on this ruling. Because of the number of Hon. Members who have spoken on the matter and the attention it has been given, I think Hon. Members will understand that it is very important I do reserve. Therefore, I will not be giving a ruling this afternoon. We will now move to Routine Proceedings.

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Speaker, I certainly understand the need to fully evaluate all the evidence. I would just like to ensure, however, concerning all the points which have been raised, that once we are finished with Routine Proceedings, Government Orders will not include Bill C-37, that we will not proceed with Bill C-37 but go on to other Government business until such time as the Speaker's ruling is made on Bill C-37.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Hon. Member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy) rising to make the same point?

Mr. Murphy: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) that as long as the Chair has not made a ruling at this time, it would certainly be inappropriate for the House, for the next little while, to debate a piece of legislation which a vast number of Hon. Members have submitted has been improperly placed before the House.

Mr. Speaker: I thank both Hon. Members. All Hon. Members will know it is not for the Chair to say at this point what the conditions of the reservation are. I am indicating to

the Chamber that I am going to reserve. I think Hon. Members will know why. There are a number of points which have been raised and they are serious points.

My purpose now is to carry on with Routine Proceedings. If Hon. Members want to rise after that, they, of course, are free to do so.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

SOFTWOOD LUMBER PRODUCTS EXPORT CHARGE ACT

TABLING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 67(2) I have the honour to lay upon the table copies, in both official languages, of a Memorandum of Understanding respecting the export of certain softwood lumber products and referred to as Bill C-37.

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PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the Government's response to 23 petitions, Nos. 332-309, 332-319, 332-331, 332-345 to 332-347 inclusive, 332-407, 332-432 to 332-438 inclusive and 332-449 to 332-457 inclusive.

LOW-LEVEL FLIGHTS AT ARMED FORCES BASE AT GOOSE BAY

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege and responsibility of presenting a petition duly certified by the Clerk regarding low-level flight training of pilots of NATO countries at the Canadian Forces Base at Goose Bay, Labrador. The petitioners point out that these flights disrupt the life of the native people and that training pilots to fly under the radar into eastern Europe is a provocative and aggressive war action which tends to endanger world peace.

The petitioners call upon Parliament to ensure that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) ends all low level flight training at the Goose Bay Canadian Forces Base and cease negotiations with NATO for the establishment of a larger base there.

TRANSFER OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions to present today. The first petition is from a