

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, July 25, 1988

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the Government's response to 14 petitions Nos. 332-4901 to 332-4903 inclusive; 332-5008 to 332-5013 inclusive; and 332-5015 to 332-5019 inclusive.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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CANADA CHILD CARE ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. Doug Lewis (for the Minister of National Health and Welfare) moves for leave to introduce Bill C-144, an Act to authorize payments by Canada towards the provision of child care services and to amend the Canada Assistance Plan in consequence thereof.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the Hon. Minister have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

ABORTION LAW INTERIM MEASURES ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-312, an Act to provide an interim measure respecting abortion and to amend the Criminal Code.

Mr. Speaker: Does the House give leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Crosby: Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment of the time of the House to explain this Bill entitled the Canada Abortion Law Interim Measures Act. As you are aware, the House is about to begin debate on abortion law in Canada, and I wanted to say very clearly and categorically in a Bill what I perceive to be the position that the House can take if it desires to prohibit abortions to the extent permitted by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Therefore, I have taken it upon myself to draft and present to the House a Bill which prohibits abortion except where medically necessary.

It also contains an important exemption which I think allows for compliance with the Canadian Charter of Rights.

Even more important, the Bill also contains a provision requiring the Prime Minister to convene a conference of First Ministers to consider an amendment to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to protect the life of the unborn. This would complete the right and privilege of making laws with respect to abortion so that a more effective law can be made in the future.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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● (1110)

[*Translation*]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.