

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, October 16, 1990

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*Translation*]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to 3 petitions.

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

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INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO AIPO

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 34(1), I have the honour to present, in both official languages, the report of the Canadian parliamentary delegation that attended the Eleventh General Assembly of the AIPO in Singapore, from September 7 to 17, 1990.

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

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[*English*]

PARLIAMENT OF CANADA ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg—St. James) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-337, an act to amend the Parliament of Canada Act (oath or solemn affirmation).

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to introduce this bill, seconded by my honourable colleague from Miramichi.

The purpose of my bill can be summed up in just a few words. All members of Parliament swear an oath of allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen. This is required by the Constitution. However, the oath makes no mention of Canada or its Constitution. I believe that this is seen by many Canadians as a shortcoming of the current oath.

Canadians would prefer an oath taken by parliamentarians that perhaps is best described as contemporary and up to date, one that reflects the growth in the maturity of our nation. I think my bill will do that. It would require MPs to take a second oath pledging allegiance to Canada and its Constitution.

Canada yet again is feeling an identity crisis. It is incumbent upon members of this House of Commons to express faith and confidence in Canada. I would welcome support for an oath of allegiance to Canada, our home, our beloved country.

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

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PETITIONS

DAIRY INDUSTRY

Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I rise today under Standing Order 36 to present a petition to this House containing over 200 names of citizens of this nation who are upset about the government trading away part of our dairy industry.

These petitioners call upon the government to hold our Canadian system up as an example for the rest of the world and to protect it in its entirety at all costs in the current round of GATT negotiations.

We have on this list names of peoples from Woodstock, Glencoe, Appin, Thorndale, London, Strathroy, and Mill Pond Crescent. There are a lot of names of people who are very upset about government trading away part of our dairy industry. I am sure that I will hear from them too in regard to the suggestion made yesterday that Canadian farmers are getting \$8.8 billion worth