

Routine Proceedings

• (1210)

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: I thank the hon. member kindly for his statement, which was in impeccable French, the language of Molière. Perhaps it might also be made in English.

[English]

Mr. Danis: The particular section in the report referred to by the Chief Government Whip concerning general principles states:

The committee believes that it is important for the House of Commons to reaffirm certain general principles that have traditionally governed the activities and functions of its Members and that have been central to the deliberations and conclusions of this Committee. These are consistent with the rights and immunities acquired by parliamentarians under the Constitution and the law of parliamentary privilege, and are necessary for the proper functioning of a parliamentary system.

The Committee recommends that the House of Commons reaffirm the following principles that apply to its Members:

- a) that the Board of Internal Economy is the authority which determines how the financial resources and administrative services provided by the House are to be applied and adhered to;
- b) that in the performance of a Member's activities and functions, a Member is entitled to financial resources and administrative services provided by the House, subject to the statutory authority of the Board of Internal Economy;
- c) that partisan activities are an inherent and essential part of the activities and functions of a Member;
- d) that a Member has the constitutional rights and immunities applicable to that office and independence in the performance of the activities and functions of that office free from interference or intimidation; and
- e) that a Member is allowed full discretion in the direction and control of the work performed on a Member's behalf by the Member's employees or independent contractors and is subject only to the authority of the Board of Internal Economy or the House of Commons in the exercise of this discretion.

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CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise an item of business under the heading of "Motions" which I believe will commend itself to the House.

As hon. members may know, Mr. Jean-Marc Hamel will cease to hold office as Chief Electoral Officer on Monday, February 19, 1990.

The Canada Elections Act requires that the Chief Electoral Officer be appointed by resolution adopted by the House of Commons.

There has been consultation with the Opposition and I believe you will find unanimous agreement to the appointment of Mr. Jean-Pierre Kingsley as Chief Electoral Officer.

Therefore, I am pleased to move the following resolution:

WHEREAS Mr. Jean-Marc Hamel will cease to hold office as Chief Electoral Officer on February 19, 1990;

AND WHEREAS subsection 6(2) of the Canada Elections Act, Chapter E-2 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1985, provides that in the event of a vacancy in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, the vacancy shall be filled by resolution of the House of Commons;

BE IT therefore, resolved that Mr. Jean-Pierre Kingsley is hereby appointed Chief Electoral Officer effective February 19, 1990.

Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would like to break with tradition at this point and suggest that because of the importance of this particular resolution, and that Mr. Kingsley will become an officer of Parliament, the motion be seconded by the member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan and the member for Kingston and the Islands in order to indicate that there is unanimous agreement and that all three parties concur in this particular motion.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I would like to put on the record a few words regarding the new appointee, Mr. Jean-Pierre Kingsley.

[Translation]

Jean-Pierre Kingsley is a graduate of the University of Ottawa. He has held several positions in the Public Service and the private sector. From 1977 to 1981, Mr. Kingsley was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Ottawa General Hospital. From 1981 to 1984, he was Assistant Deputy Minister in the Department of State for Social Development. Later, he was Deputy Secretary of the Personnel Policy Branch at Treasury Board, until 1987.

[English]

That, Mr. Speaker, is the area where I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Kingsley, who I see in the gallery today. I want to say personally that this is a very