

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, May 19, 1988

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

LAW REFORM COMMISSION

TABLING OF THIRTY-FIRST REPORT

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table in both official languages Report No. 31 of the Law Reform Commission of Canada entitled *Recodifying Criminal Law*, a revised and enlarged edition of Report No. 30 which I tabled in this House on December 3, 1986.

* * *

CANADIAN MULTICULTURALISM ACT

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Hon. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton North): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the report of the legislative committee on Bill C-93. I would like to thank the Clerk, Mr. Don Landry, and the staff who worked so diligently on this Bill, as well as the Minister for appearing at the beginning and the end of the deliberations.

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

* * *

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, I rise on point of order. What are the Government's intentions today when we reach Orders of the Day? The House understood that, because of a special order, today would be devoted to Government Order No. 23, the Constitution amendment dealing with the Meech Lake Accord.

We also see on the Order Paper consideration of a Ways and Means motion concerning free trade. I do not know if the Government has decided to postpone the debate on Meech

Lake and go to this other business, but we would like to know why this is on the document before us. We have people who are prepared to speak on the Meech Lake debate today. We would like to know if they can expect to be speaking today.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, we expect Routine Proceedings to proceed smoothly. We would then call, as indicated on the Order Paper, the Ways and Means proceeding. It is not debatable and not amendable. It should go reasonably quickly and give the Hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Hnatyshyn) an opportunity to reopen the Meech Lake debate, followed by the spokespersons for the two opposition Parties.

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, I rise with respect to the same concern expressed by the Member for Saint-Jacques (Mr. Guilbault). It is crucial that the House have some sense of direction in which it is going. To put this suddenly on the Order Paper at this stage gives very little time for consideration of a motion which was brought forward by the Government just yesterday.

● (1110)

It is a motion that cannot be debated, which in itself is most objectionable, I think. It seems to me, therefore, that to take this step, which in effect reverses what the Government has put before us previously, is really most unusual and I hope, Mr. Speaker, that you will rule it out of order.

Mr. Speaker: I have listened carefully to the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon). I can understand the point he is making. However, the rules are quite clear. The Chair is in no position to rule the matter out of order. I just would not have the authority to do so. In view of the fact that the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor has spoken on this matter, I should ask if there is any further comment.

Mr. Lewis: No need for it.

* * *

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUANCE OF AIR CANADA UNDER THE CANADA BUSINESS CORPORATIONS ACT AND FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF SHARES THEREOF TO THE PUBLIC

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council) moved for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the continuance of Air Canada under the