

### *Routine Proceedings*

records, the fixing of its sitting days or the times of its meeting or adjournment.

[*English*]

From this the opposition House leader and hon. member for Kingston and the Islands suggest that it is inappropriate to file a motion for the appointment of the Information Commissioner or for the Privacy Commissioner under the rubric "Motions" because these appointments are for officers of Parliament rather than for officers of the House. This rubric, the opposition House leader contends, should only be reserved for officers of the House.

A review of precedents reveals that previous appointments to these positions were moved under the rubric "Government Motions". However, the question still remains: because that route was followed in the past, can we logically conclude that this route is the only option open? The Chair is not persuaded to that conclusion. Instead, as in the decision of June 13, 1988, the Chair concludes that the government has the option of choosing to move such a motion under either heading.

Several hon. members have pointed out that the Standing Order refers to the appointment or conduct of the House's officers. I have been unable to find anywhere a precise definition of who fits into that classification.

Taken in its widest sense, an officer of the House could include such positions as diverse as the chair occupants, the House leaders, the Clerk and the Sergeant-at-Arms and the other officers reporting to the House through its Speaker. Some of these are appointed by resolution of the House, but many of them are not. Unless the House directs me otherwise it is this broad interpretation that I intend to be guided by.

As to the distinction that the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands attempted to make between an Officer of the House and an Officer of Parliament, I have not been able to accept his reasoning on that issue, although I must say it is an interesting if not ingenious argument.

It is my view that the Auditor General for example could be considered to be either an Officer of the House or an Officer of Parliament.

In conclusion, the Chair judges that the government has liberty to move the appointment of the Information Commissioner or the Privacy Commissioner either under the rubric "Motions" or under the rubric "Government

Motions". The motions as they now stand on the Order Paper under the rubric "Motions" are regular and can be proceeded with.

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## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

### ORDER IN COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

#### TABLING OF APPOINTMENTS AND REFERENCE

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to table, in both official languages, a number of Order in Council appointments which were made by the government.

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 110(1) they are deemed referred to the appropriate standing committees, a list of which is attached.

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### PETITIONS

#### GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I would like to table in both official languages, the government responses to six petitions.

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

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[*Translation*]

### FISHERIES ACT

#### MEASURE TO AMEND

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-74, an Act to amend the Fisheries Act and the Criminal Code in consequence thereof.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House that 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.

**Mr. Speaker:** When shall the bill be read the second time? At the next sitting of the House?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.