

Routine Proceedings

(Motions deemed adopted, bill read the first time and printed.)

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CRIMINAL CODE

Hon. Allan Rock (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Lib.) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-119, an act to amend the Criminal Code (child prostitution, criminal harassment and female genital mutilation).

(Motions deemed adopted, bill read the first time and printed.)

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YUKON QUARTZ MINING ACT

Hon. Ron Irwin (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Lib.) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-120, an act to amend the Yukon Quartz Mining Act and the Yukon Placer Mining Act.

(Motions deemed adopted, bill read the first time and printed.)

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PARLIAMENT OF CANADA ACT

Mr. Elwin Hermanson (Kindersley—Lloydminster, Ref.) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-366, an act to amend the Parliament of Canada Act and the Canada Elections Act (confidence votes).

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to introduce this bill which you described as an act to amend the Parliament of Canada Act and the Canada Elections Act.

As members recall, two or three days ago I withdrew a bill which was the incorrect draft. I had initially described that bill when I introduced it. The only additional comments I will make is that this bill will also bring more certainty as to the timing of byelection and general election dates.

In light of the vacancy in Labrador, the way this bill would affect that vacancy is it would prevent a byelection from being held in the dead of winter. It would also prevent the people from Labrador from not being represented for an undue length of time. It would also have prevented the past byelections that were held over the Christmas and New Year's season from happening.

• (1035)

This bill brings more certainty to the election process. It is not a violation of our Constitution. I believe it is a very good piece of legislation. I invite members over the Christmas season to look at it and if they could propose amendments that would make it an even better bill, I would certainly be willing to have them talk to me about it.

(Motions deemed adopted, bill read the first time and printed.)

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BLACK CANADIANS

Ms. Jean Augustine (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, with the unanimous consent of the House, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Québec, the hon. member for Kootenay East, and the hon. member for Burnaby—Kingsway:

That this House take note of the important contribution of black Canadians to the settlement, growth and development of Canada, the diversity of the black community in Canada and its importance to the history of this country, and recognize February as black history month.

The Speaker: The hon. parliamentary secretary had the unanimous consent of the House to move the motion. Is it agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

(Motion agreed to.)

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, you will find a disposition on the part of the House in respect of today's debate on government Motion No. 28 to proceed as follows. There will be three 30-minute speeches by the first three speakers. Following that, there will be 20-minute speeches without questions or comments for the remainder of the debate. The whips could divide those as they choose under Standing Order 43.

There is a disposition on the part of the House to proceed that way in respect of today's debate.

The Speaker: Does the hon. parliamentary secretary have permission for this proposal?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Milliken: Mr. Speaker, two other small matters that are agreed to. First, when we reach Private Members' Business today at 5.30, there is a disposition on the part of the House to deal with Bill S-12 now on the Order Paper at all stages. I am giving notice so there is a clear understanding that would happen before the normal private members' business for the day. I anticipate a very short passage for Bill S-12.

At the end of private members' hour, there is a disposition to deal with a matter on the adjournment. It is a late show item left over from last night which should take six minutes.

[Translation]

Mr. Loubier: The bill arising from omnibus bill 4?