

*Summer Recess*

the beginning of March and the end of May. I submit there are two or three months in the year where all hon. members should be required to be very active in committee, to better scrutinize the Main Estimates, and outside that period we could be more flexible in order to allow these sub-committees to address matters of public interest, in small numbers, to effectively reach the same goal we had in mind for that experiment. This is what I had to say on that aspect of a new feature. Once more this year we had television. We extended it to the committee on the Constitution, which was also a first and an innovation. That experiment proved very profitable, and also very costly, but money is no obstacle to possibly trying similar experiments in the future. On the other hand, it is a matter of common sense in my view that before bringing television into the proceedings of all committees, we must first bring in parliamentary reform, especially in our committees. Television should be brought in only when we have put some order in our parliamentary procedure, especially that of our committees. Be that as it may, the constitution committee experience has been most positive, and I wish to commend all people involved with televising the debates, both in this House and in the committees, for their magnificent work at the technical level.

Madam Speaker, I see you have not yet interrupted me, so I may go on. In respect of other reforms that could be made, I have often indicated publicly in this House, during the year, in response to questions, that to me this was a priority. Some three weeks ago, on a Friday afternoon, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in answer to opposition members stated in this House that this was one of his priorities, and I want to confirm that I am now consulting and preparing a document. I intend to consult my colleagues as soon as possible on some aspects of that reform, but I will do all I can in order that we may reach an agreement on changes that would not be too controversial at first, and in order also that we might ask a committee to very seriously but in a short period deal with that basic question of parliamentary reform. Why did we not do so during these last few months? After passing 65 pieces of legislation, discussing the Constitution for two months in this House and four months in committee, after having a budget, 35 opposition days, passing all the bills stemming from the budget, as I said, for the first time in more than 20 years, after performing all that work, especially after passing all those bills, most of which were an accumulation of legislation resulting from two elections in less than a year, it would neither be realistic nor fair to expect that we should have addressed in-depth reform over these last months.

However, I think that though there are still about twenty bills on the Order Paper, we, on this side, can consider the future with optimism, I can assure the hon. members that when I refer to parliamentary reform, I do not want to restrict the rights of the opposition. I wish to be quite clear; I will never suggest any change that could encroach on the rights of

the opposition. This is not my intent. And if such changes were made, it would be for reasons beyond my control. When I refer to reform, I do not mean more power for the government, Madam Speaker; I want to improve the ability of this House to hold more thorough debates while coping realistically with the problems and dealing with the concerns of the Canadian people. I apologize, Madam Speaker, because I see that you want to interrupt me. I will continue my speech shortly.

● (1430)

**THE ROYAL ASSENT**

[*Translation*]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Madam Speaker, the Honourable Deputy to the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the Chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Madam Speaker with the House went up to the Senate Chamber.

And being returned:

**Madam Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that when the House went up to the Senate chamber, the Deputy Governor General was pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following bills:

Bill C-14, an Act to amend the Diplomatic and Consular Privileges and Immunities Act—Chapter No. 74;

Bill C-81, an Act to amend the Official Residences Act—Chapter No. 75;

Bill C-82, an Act to amend the Pension Act and the Compensation for Former Prisoners of War Act—Chapter No. 76;

Bill C-83, an Act to amend the Senate and House of Commons Act, the Salaries Act, the Parliamentary Secretaries Act and the Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act—Chapter No. 77;

Bill C-79, an Act to amend the Veterans' Land Act and to amend the Veterans Benefit Act in consequence thereof—Chapter No. 78;

Bill S-10, an Act to amend the Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act—Chapter No. 79.

Bill S-20, an Act to revive Ontario News Company, Limited and to provide for its continuance under the Canada Business Corporations Act;

Bill S-21, an Act to revive G. A. Barber & Sons Limited and to provide for its continuance under the Canada Business Corporations Act;

Bill S-22, an Act to revive Eastern Diversified Company Ltd. and to provide for its continuance under the Canada Business Corporations Act.