

### CONSTITUTION ACT

#### AMENDMENT RESPECTING DURATION OF HOUSE OF COMMONS

**Hon. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-694, an Act to amend the Constitution Act, 1867 to 1982 (duration of House of Commons).

**Some Hon. Members:** Explain.

**Mr. Howie:** Mr. Speaker, my Bill seeks to authorize general elections at statutory intervals under certain conditions and provisions set out therein.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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### HOLIDAYS ACT

#### AMENDMENT TO DESIGNATE "HERITAGE DAY"

**Mr. Bill Yurko (Edmonton East)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-695, an Act to proclaim the first Monday in August "Heritage Day".

**Some Hon. Members:** Explain.

**Mr. Yurko:** Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to designate the first Monday of August "Heritage Day" and to offer to all Canadians an occasion to express their appreciation and their pride in being part of a multicultural nation. I cite the work of Michael Beaupré and Dianne Davidson of the Law Branch and David Pratt of my office in drafting this Bill. A Member would have to be politically naive not to vote for this Bill.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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### BLUE WATER BRIDGE AUTHORITY ACT

#### AMENDMENT RESPECTING INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP

**Hon. Bud Cullen (Sarnia-Lambton)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-696, an Act to amend the Blue Water Bridge Authority Act.

**Some Hon. Members:** Explain.

**Mr. Cullen:** Mr. Speaker, when the Blue Water Bridge Authority was established it was assumed that there would be Americans and Canadians serving on the authority. As it turns out, Michigan has decided to put the Blue Water Bridge totally within its highway system. As a result of that, rather than having eight members doing this work we now have four. I am suggesting that the number be increased from four to five so that we can handle the Canadian side.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

### Order Paper Questions

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Motions.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, we are prepared again today to forgo the usual practice of reading the riding of each Member presenting a motion for concurrence, the exception being for today only.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Agreed. I will dispense with reading the rather lengthy list.

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### QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 4,243, 4,790, 5,017, 5,023 and 5,260.

[Text]

#### CHANGES TO UI MATERNITY BENEFITS

Question No. 4,243—**Mr. Herbert:**

1. Is the Government contemplating introducing changes to the legislative provisions dealing with benefits for reasons of maternity and, if so, would such changes include the right of a claimant to choose the length of time before and after delivery?

2. Were any such changes submitted to Cabinet for approval and, if so, what is the anticipated time that an enabling bill would be submitted to the House?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** 1. The provisions of the Unemployment Insurance legislation dealing with maternity benefits were examined by the Task Force on Unemployment Insurance and their report was tabled in Parliament in July, 1981.

The proposals for revamping the maternity benefit provisions would extend maternity benefits to adoptive parents, and eliminate the "magic 10" rule, Section 46, and the provision which limits payment to the first 15 weeks of benefits.

Under present legislation, a maximum of 15 weeks of maternity benefits is payable commencing eight weeks before the expected date of confinement and ending 17 weeks after the actual date of confinement. Personal flexibility is available within these parameters and the Task Force did not propose any modifications to this particular provision.

2. Following extensive consultation across Canada, recommendations on various provisions of the UI legislation, including several dealing with maternity benefits, have been formulated. An enabling bill will be prepared and placed before the House based on the final decisions of the Cabinet; these have not yet been finalized.

#### VULNERABLE EMPLOYEES IN EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION COMMISSION

Question No. 4,790—**Mr. Herbert:**

1. How many supernumeraries or vulnerable employees are presently retained on salary in the Department of Employment and Immigration?