

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, June 26, 1986

The House met at 11 a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

ELECTION LAW REFORM

TABLING OF WHITE PAPER

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 67(2), I have the honour to lay upon the Table copies of a document entitled "White Paper on Election Law Reform" in both official languages.

After the other documents have been tabled I would like to rise on a point of order with respect to the disposition of this report.

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PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106(8), I have the honour to table in both official languages the response of the Government to 18 petitions as follows: 331-558, 331-561, 331-576 to 331-579 inclusive, 331-585, 331-595 to 331-602 inclusive, 331-613, 331-617 and 331-641.

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ELECTIONS, PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURE

REFERENCE OF WHITE PAPER ON ELECTION LAW REFORM TO STANDING COMMITTEE

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. There have been consultations among the Parties and I think Your Honour would find a disposition to accept the following order by unanimous consent and to pass it without debate. It is as follows:

That, notwithstanding any Standing or Special Order of this House, the document entitled "White Paper on Election Law Reform", laid upon the Table earlier this day, be referred to the Standing Committee on Elections, Privileges and Procedure; and

That the same Committee shall make its final report thereon not later than Wednesday, October 8, 1986.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I too rise on a point of order. We have no difficulties with this matter as long as a commitment is given that the hearings will start in September and not before.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I have informally discussed the agenda with the critics of each of the Parties. It has been agreed that the summer be used for the receiving of submissions and petitions with respect to the White Paper, but that the formal hearings of the committee and its deliberations not take place until September.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for the introduction of the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS—FINAL REPORT OF SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE

Mr. Tom Hockin (London West): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the final report of the Special Joint Committee on Canada's International Relations in both official languages.

This report is the culmination of one year's work carried on by both Houses of Parliament. The committee presented an interim report on August 23 with regard to the invitation for Canada to participate in the SDI and on the question of bilateral trade relations with the United States. Most of what the committee had to say on these specific questions was said at that time.

Today we present our final report on the broad spectrum of Canada's international relations. You will find here, Mr. Speaker, 120 recommendations and conclusions related to amplifying Canada's influence internationally, safe-guarding peace and security, expanding trade, aiding international development, promoting human rights, improving relations on a broad front with the United States and other countries, and developing a northern dimension for Canada's foreign policy. We commend it to the attention of the House.

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that since members of the New Democratic Party who sat on the committee were not able to