

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, April 12, 1988

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

• (1110)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

TABLING OF EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY RESPECTING SALARY REVISIONS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to lay upon the table an extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Commissioners of Internal Economy held on Wednesday, March 16, 1988, concerning revisions of the salaries of employees of the House of Commons effective April 1, 1988.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure of tabling, in both official languages, the 1987 Annual Report of the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

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AIR CANADA

TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT (1987) OF CROWN CORPORATION

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of tabling in the House today, in both official languages, two copies of the 1987 Annual Report of Air Canada.

[English]

POINT OF ORDER

PROVISION OF ADVANCE COPIES OF PROPOSED STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, considering that it is customary to distribute copies of Ministers' statements in advance and we have yet to receive a copy of this document, and considering that this is parliamentary practice and that we appreciate civility in this House, the Minister should have given us reasonable notice. It is now 11.17 a.m., and we have not yet received a copy of the statement. I therefore suggest that the Minister, in the interests of this House and of intelligent and democratic debate, postpone his statement until we have the copies and have had time to look at them, and I suggest that we revert to Statements by Ministers later today.

[English]

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I also rise to simply register a concern that if the Minister is going to be making a minor statement or perhaps an almost inconsequential statement on some matter, one might understand that he might be a bit remiss in providing us with a copy in advance of such a statement. However, in this regard, I would like to suggest that the Chair consider one of two alternatives, that is, that adequate time be given to the Opposition to review the statement in order to allow us to reflect and provide an intelligent and thoughtful response, or, as a last resort, at least an opportunity be given so that there will be a chance later in the day for the opposition Parties to respond to the Minister's statement.

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)): Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond, if I may, to my colleagues' comments.

Our Government has tried wherever possible to make full use of ministerial statements so that important government announcements are made in the House of Commons where they should be made and wherever possible we have done that. Also, in keeping with the courtesies of the House, we have made every effort to make copies of the statement available to the Opposition House Leaders and critics in order that they may respond to the statement made. We understand that need.

I would suggest, in view of the nature of the statement, which I am sure will become clear to the House, that the appropriate method in this case would be to have the Minister