

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, September 8, 1992

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

[*Translation*]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

RECALL OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. Speaker: I wish to inform the House that, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 28(3), I gave notice that the House should meet today. On Friday, September 4, 1992, I sent electronic mail to each member explaining the reasons for the recall of the House.

[*English*]

I also wish to inform the House that in accordance with the representation made by the government under the provisions of Standing Order 55(1) I have caused to be published a special Order Paper giving notice of a government motion. I now lay upon the table the relevant documents.

I am also tabling today documentation relating to the request by the government to recall the House for July 15, 1992 as well as documentation which resulted in my decision to rescind the recall of the House scheduled for that day.

On June 26, 1992, after consultation with the government under the provisions of Standing Order 28(3) and being satisfied that the public interest required that the House be recalled in order to consider the constitutional situation, I gave notice that the House meet on July 15, 1992.

[*Translation*]

On July 10 I received a request, signed by representatives of the three recognized parties in the House, to rescind the recall because they felt it was no longer necessary, in the public interest, to recall the House for July 15, 1992.

[*English*]

This request to rescind the recall was unprecedented and the Standing Orders do not offer the Speaker any direction as to the action to be taken in such a case. As the recall of the House is ultimately the prerogative of the Speaker, on July 11, 1992, after careful consideration, I directed that the recall of July 15, 1992 be rescinded. I came to this decision as the request to rescind the recall was made by all three recognized parties that agreed it was no longer necessary in the public interest for the House to meet at that time.

[*Translation*]

I wish to thank the House for allowing the Speaker to explain the reasons for his decision.

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VACANCY

SHEFFORD

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the following vacancy has occurred in the representation, namely, the Hon. Jean C. Lapierre, P.C., member for the electoral district of Shefford, by resignation, on Sunday, August 23, 1992.

In accordance with paragraph 25(1)(b) of the Parliament of Canada Act, on Monday, August 24, 1992, I addressed my warrant to the Chief Electoral Officer for the issue of a writ of election for the said electoral district.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*English*]

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, today is International Literacy Day. This occasion gives Canadians an opportunity to look at the seriousness of illiteracy in our country.

A number of studies indicated that there are 25 per cent to 40 per cent of Canadians who have different