

Routine Proceedings

report entitled "Government Response to the Interim Report of the Commission of Inquiry on the Blood System in Canada".

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[English]

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to 12 petitions.

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COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE**JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present, in both official languages, the eighth report of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Pursuant to the order of reference of Wednesday, April 5, 1995, your committee has considered Bill C-68, an act respecting firearms and other weapons. Your committee has agreed to report it with approximately 61 amendments.

I want to mention that in considering this bill the committee heard 70 witness groups over a two-month period, representing all points of view. I want to thank all witnesses for their views on this important matter. I also want to thank the members of the committee, who co-operated through many long meetings to improve and to clear this bill.

PROCEDURE AND HOUSE AFFAIRS

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to the House the 81st report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs, relating to changes to the standing orders as they relate to private members' business and particularly to Standing Order 98.

The committee recommends that the prohibition against the second sitting day of the report and third reading stages of a private member's bill on Mondays and Fridays be deleted.

I urge all hon. members to read this fascinating report from the committee.

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• (1505)

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.)

moved for leave to introduce Bill C-96, an act to establish the Department of Human Resources Development and to amend and repeal certain related acts.

(Motions deemed adopted, bill read the first time and printed.)

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CRIMINAL CODE

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston, Lib.) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-331, an act to amend the Criminal Code (taking a sample of a bodily substance).

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity today to introduce this private member's bill, which deals with what is considered to be a gaping hole in the criminal justice system.

The bill I am introducing today would give the police the authority to require a suspect in a criminal investigation to provide a DNA sample.

It is unfortunate today in Canada that a person suspected of drinking and driving could be forced to provide a breath sample, yet someone who is suspected of committing a murder or a rape cannot be forced to provide a DNA sample.

The bill will allow the police to obtain a warrant from a justice of the peace requiring the person to provide a sample. Failure to provide the sample will result in a criminal prosecution of that particular individual, and the person's refusal to provide the sample can be used in court against the accused in the criminal proceedings.

As I indicated, this bill will fill a gaping hole in the criminal justice system. DNA evidence is a powerful, reliable form of evidence, which can be used to solve hundreds of serious crimes in the country that are unsolved at present. Not only can it establish guilt, but it can also be used to establish innocence.

(Motions deemed adopted, bill read the first time and printed.)

Mr. McClelland: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, given the gravity and the importance of the bill just introduced by my hon. colleague opposite, I wonder if hon. members present would give consideration to unanimous consent to allow the bill to go to second reading immediately.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. members: No.

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PROGRAM COST DECLARATION ACT

Mr. Alex Shepherd (Durham, Lib.) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-332, an act to provide for improved information on the cost of proposed government programs.