

*Canada Flag Day***CANADA FLAG DAY**PRECEDENCE FOR BILL C-136—REQUEST FOR
UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I also desire to seek the agreement of the House under Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity, namely, the desire, I am sure, of all hon. members today, to express themselves about the Canadian flag. I move, seconded by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas):

That, at five o'clock this day, notwithstanding the order of business set down for that time, the House proceed to consider Bill C-136, an act respecting Canada flag day standing in the name of the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the motion proposed by the hon. member for Skeena. This motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimity?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: If there were any noes, they were very faint and I did not hear them. Unless I hear them loudly and clearly now, I believe I will have to say that there is unanimity to allow the Chair to put the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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[Translation]

MANPOWERINQUIRY RESPECTING LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—
REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43, I ask leave to put the following motion.

In view of rights of hon. members to control government expenditures, of the very serious doubts entertained by some hon. members concerning partisanship aspects of the Local Initiatives Program as well as false criteria applied for acceptance or rejection of projects, and in view of the urgent character of the matter, since some projects have not yet been accepted, I solicit unanimous consent of the House to move, seconded by the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Latulippe):

That an investigation be ordered and carried out as early as possible, under control of the House of Commons, in order to check on the very serious doubts hon. members of this House entertain as to the integrity of Local Initiatives Program as concerns criteria for acceptance or rejection of projects.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is proposing that the House deal with this motion under Standing Order 43. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is no unanimity. The motion therefore cannot be put.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRSANNOUNCEMENT OF SIGNING OF AGREEMENT WITH
CUBA ON HIJACKING OF AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this morning Dr. Rene Anillo, the Cuban First Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is in the diplomatic gallery, and I signed an agreement on hijacking of aircraft and vessels and other offences. I am now tabling this agreement.

As affirmed in this agreement the governments of the Republic of Cuba and Canada share a common commitment to eliminate the menace to lives posed by resort to hijacking of aircraft and vessels. This agreement is an impressive example of what two countries enjoying friendly relations can do in the common good.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, our eloquent and esteemed spokesman on external affairs, the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner), is unable to be here today because of disruption of air schedules from Montreal.

An hon. Member: Is he hijacked?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Macquarrie: No, I do not believe there has been any hijacking. I am very happy to hear the announcement by the minister in reference to the longstanding and vexatious problem of hijacking. I believe, Sir, that any move that makes it easier for the people of different countries to traverse paths of commerce and social exchange together should be welcomed.

I have always been very proud of the fact that some years ago the government of the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), against a great deal of pressure from certain countries in the world, decided that this country, regardless of its views of the ideological construction of the government of Cuba, would retain diplomatic and commercial relations with that country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Macquarrie: I believe that decision was right and proper, as indeed were most decisions taken by that right hon. gentleman's government in those difficult years. I am happy that upon a basis of continuing consultation we have moved forward to a situation today which I salute and commend.

I am also happy to say that I had the honour of being in the Republic of Cuba for a couple of weeks before Christmas, where I was treated with every courtesy and every kindness. I bear for the people of that fine country, and especially for their distinguished ambassador in this country, the highest regard.

I look forward to the day when, upon the basis of the understanding reached today, we shall have direct air communication between Canada and Cuba, and I suggest that that carrier be Eastern Pacific Airways—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!