

properly evaluated. But I would think it is passing strange to suggest that a panel of this nature, headed by such a distinguished British Columbian as the president of UBC could, in fact, be accused of such a cover-up.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. John McDermid (for the Minister of Finance) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-88, an act to provide for the membership of Canada in the European Bank for reconstruction and development.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

REFERENCE OF SUBJECT MATTER TO STANDING COMMITTEE

Ms. Ethel Blondin (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. In view of the answer that the Deputy Prime Minister gave to my question regarding the federal inquiry into Oka, I want to request unanimous consent for a motion. My motion is seconded by the hon. member for Broadview—Greenwood and reads:

That the subject matter of the events at Kanesatake and Kahnawake during the summer of 1990 be referred to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, that of course, was part of the original motion which we were not able to bring to a vote when that was discussed. I wish the hon. member had raised this with me before moving the motion. As I indicated, the government, by having brought forward that motion, indicates that we are quite willing to have the subject matter go to committee. But as her House leader is often prone to tell me, "no surprises, no surprises; I don't like surprises".

Routine Proceedings

But to show that I am able to react to surprises a little quicker than the hon. House leader of the opposition, we agree.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, just to clarify the matter, the government House leader indicated that the original motion had that clause attached to it. I may be wrong, but my recollection is that it was to be referred to the justice committee, not the committee on aboriginal affairs. Perhaps I am wrong, but my understanding was that it was to be sent to the justice committee. I wonder if he could clarify that point.

Mr. Andre: You are right, that was the issue at stake. But as my colleague, the Minister of National Defence indicated today, the committees of this House are quite capable now, under parliamentary reform brought in by this government, of selecting their own subjects of study. So we have no particular problem in allowing to be done that which could be done anyway.

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, is the government House leader indicating that as opposed to the policy of the Conservatives in the transport committee, he will actually let his members of the aboriginal affairs committee come to a committee meeting so that they can ask for that particular subject to be studied.

Mr. Andre: Just a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Again we have the New Democratic Party trying to impugn the motives of members of this side of the House, and I object.

Mr. Speaker: The motion before the House is that the subject matter of the events at Kanesatake and Kahnawake during the summer of 1990 be referred to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs. I take it that there is consent.

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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PETITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Mr. Speaker, I rise in accordance with Standing Order 36 to present a petition from 95 of my constituents. They are from the Elliston, Duntara, Bonavista, Spillars