

Space Agency

reading, I should add. We will then follow that up with second reading of Bill C-21, the Unemployment Insurance Act amendments. On Tuesday, we will deal with second reading of Bill C-22, a Bill amending the Environmental Protection Act and we will follow that with second reading of Bill C-5, the Railway Act. On Wednesday, I expect we will continue, although it may in fact go very smoothly, debate on Bill C-21, the amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): With respect to the Minister's statement, I would like to ask him if he would consult with me about the time to begin debate on second reading of the unemployment insurance Bill. We want to have available our senior spokespersons on this. There may already be commitments made in that regard that cannot be changed. I want to ask him if we can meet and discuss that aspect of his report.

Mr. Lewis: Definitely.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Government House Leader would be so kind as to indicate the intentions with regard to the copyright Bill. We are in the last few weeks now of this session. Does the Government plan to proceed with that, or is there any thought being given to circulating a draft of that copyright Bill so people can have a chance to review it prior to it being introduced in the House?

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, unless I have missed something, I do not believe that Bill is on the Order Paper yet. Right? We are not talking about a Bill presently on the Order Paper. Okay, fine. I will take that matter up with the Minister and get back to my friend.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

CANADIAN SPACE AGENCY ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Andre that Bill C-16, an Act to establish the Canadian Space Agency and to provide for other matters

in relation to space, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When the House rose at one o'clock, the Hon. Member for Windsor—Lake St. Clair had the floor.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Lake St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, just to remind the Chair of where we were, we were talking about the establishment of the space agency as provided in Bill C-16. I had indicated that my Party supports this legislation. We approve of having such an agency to co-ordinate the Canadian space program. We are aware of the significant areas of responsibility that it has to co-ordinate in the space program as it is scattered among the various Departments such as the Department of Communications, the National Research Council and Energy, Mines and Resources. We understand its important role with respect to acting as Canada's representative and co-ordinator with respect to Canada's involvement in collaboration with international space enterprises such as NASA, the European Space Agency, and so on.

When I paused earlier, we were giving some consideration to the importance of the procurement aspects of the space program in building Canadian technology, which is a very important function of any mission which is to be construed as a national mission; for example, Canadian participation in the space platform through the mobile servicing centre. One of the examples of the importance of this is RADARSAT which has run into some difficulty, Great Britain having withdrawn from the program. The project has been slowed down. Although I understand that an off-the-shelf technology to replace the platform which was supposed to be constructed by Great Britain is possible and will mean a cut in the over-all cost by about \$50 million. Another fly in the ointment has reared its ugly head in that Ontario is now pausing in making its commitment to the RADARSAT project because of what it perceived to be favouritism to the Province of Quebec.

• (1510)

The original intent was that there was to be a 35-35 per cent split between Ontario and Quebec with respect to contracts associated with RADARSAT. Whatever one may think of the role of space technology or the space program in respect to regional development, or the notion that perhaps it would be better to consider sharing the benefits of research with the entire context of science rather than specifically in the space areas, nevertheless it is clear that Quebec has a 40 per cent share as compared to Ontario's share. I make no specific