

**Mr. Gérard Loiselle (Saint-Henri):** Mr. Speaker, I think there is a procedural matter involved. I ask the unanimous consent of the House to revert to motions.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member for Saint-Henri is asking that the House unanimously consent to revert to motions to allow him to move concurrence of the fifth report of the committee. Is it agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

### MISCELLANEOUS PRIVATE BILLS AND STANDING ORDERS

#### CONCURRENCE IN THE 5TH REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**Mr. Gérard Loiselle (Saint-Henri)** moved that the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills and Standing Orders, presented to the House earlier today, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

## PRIVATE BILLS

[English]

### ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

**Mr. Lloyd Francis (Ottawa West)** moved that Bill S-28, respecting the Royal Canadian Legion, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills and Standing Orders.

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, I propose that the bill be read a second time, be referred to a committee of the whole and that we agree to expedite its passage. It is a very simple bill. The committee cannot meet and report back until some time late in the fall, and I thought it would expedite the passage of the bill and meet the wishes of the House if I moved the following:

That the motion be amended by deleting therefrom all the words after the word "referred" and substituting therefor the following words:

"to a committee of the whole House."

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Amendment (Mr. Lambert, Edmonton West) agreed to.

**Mr. Francis:** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of introducing Bill S-28 respecting the Royal Canadian Legion. It was introduced in the other place by Senator Carter and has been studied by the standing committee of the Senate on health, welfare and science. Hon. members who are inter-

### Royal Canadian Legion

ested in the proceedings may wish to look at the minutes of that committee of July 17, a copy of which I have in my hand.

This year is the fiftieth anniversary of the Legion in Canada. Following World War I it came into existence to serve the needs of those veterans who felt that such a fraternal and benevolent organization was absolutely essential. It received a very substantial infusion of new members following World War II. However, at this stage the Legion is operating with an antiquated charter which is something like 50 years old. This bill updates a number of its provisions.

Today the Legion continues to expand its membership, but its members know that its base of those who actually served in the armed forces of Canada throughout the country is a diminishing base in numbers. The Legion has amended its provisions. It admits to membership the sons and daughters of those who served. It has to think of the future; it has to look at the changes which can reasonably be anticipated in the period ahead.

The purpose of this bill is to make changes which will have the effect of clarifying and updating the provisions governing the revocation of branch charters, the dissolution of Legion branches and the disposition of the property of branches. It is intended to bring about modern procedures of property management and review to make sure that both the old members and the new members are served, and that there are no circumstances in which contracts could be entered into which were not the most wise in the circumstances, or dispositions of property which may not be in the interests of the Legion.

I am confident that hon. members who have any questions on this matter will find that the examination of witnesses before the committee of the other place was exhaustive and that any questions in the minds of hon. members would be answered. I hope that by unanimous consent it will be possible to proceed today in committee of the whole, as was indicated by the motion moved by the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert), and to third reading in anticipation that perhaps this House might be adjourning in the not too distant future.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, considered in committee and reported.

• (1710)

**Mr. Francis** moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

**Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming):** Mr. Speaker, as a member who has been interested in the affairs of the Legion for a considerable period of time, I am pleased and gratified that the House has taken what I consider to be a very unusual step. First, the bill was late and received consideration by the other place almost by leave. Then it received special consideration by this House, which is not now as dominated by veterans as previously was the case.

I should like to compliment the Legion on the effort it has made to deal with some of the problems that have developed in respect of ownership and management of property. As the members of the Legion have changed, the whole idea of the Legion has changed. Members will agree that veterans who served in World War I are now beyond