

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, June 12, 1987

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, I want to inform the House that there have been discussions amongst the House Leaders of the Parties with respect to today's business. Notwithstanding the fact that yesterday I indicated that we would be dealing with Bill C-55, amendments to the Immigration Act, there has been a disposition to move to another order of business standing in the name of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hnatyshyn). It is a government motion for the establishment of a Joint Senate and House of Commons Committee to consider and report on the 1987 Constitutional Accord.

When that is completed we could then go on to the other business which was originally designated for today, namely, Bill C-55. I think if you seek the concurrence of the House, you will find that there will be unanimous consent to proceed in that manner.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, what the Government House Leader said reflects discussions we have had. If unanimous consent is asked to put the motion to set up the Joint Committee on the constitutional amendments, we will certainly agree.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, we concur.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENTS ORDERS

[English]

1987 CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD

ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE

Hon. Don Mazankowski (for the Minister of Justice) moved:

That a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons be appointed to consider and report on the "1987 Constitutional Accord,

signed in Ottawa on June 3, 1987, by the First Ministers of Canada", copies of which were tabled in the Senate and the House of Commons on June 3, 1987;

That twelve Members of the House of Commons and five Members of the Senate be the Members of the Special Joint Committee, such Members on the part of the House of Commons to be designated no later than seven sitting days after the adoption of this motion;

That the Committee have the power to appoint from among its Members such sub-committees as may be deemed advisable, and to delegate to such sub-committees all or any of their powers except the power to report directly to the House;

That the Committee have power to sit during sittings and adjournments of the House of Commons;

That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers and records, and to examine witnesses and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be ordered by the Committee;

That the Committee be empowered to authorize television and radio broadcasting, as it deems appropriate, of any or all of its proceedings or of proceedings of its sub-committees, pursuant to the principles and practices governing the broadcasting of the proceedings of the House of Commons;

That the Committee submit its report not later than September 14, 1987, provided that, if the House is not sitting, the report will be deemed submitted on the day such report is deposited with the Clerk of the House of Commons and with the Clerk of the Senate;

That substitution be authorized, for Members from the House of commons, from a list of alternates to be provided to the Joint Chairmen of the Special Joint Committee by a representative of each party at the first meeting of the Committee, such list of alternates to contain no more than twice the number of Members of the House of Commons who are Members of the Special Joint Committee representing each party in the House;

That the quorum of the Committee be eight Members, whenever a vote, resolution or other decision is taken, so long as both Houses are represented, and that the Joint Chairmen be authorized to hold meetings, to receive evidence and authorize the printing thereof, when six Members are present so long as both Houses are represented; and

That a message be sent to the Senate requesting that House to unite with this House for the above purpose, and to select, if the Senate deems it to be advisable, five Members to act on the proposed Special Joint Committee.

● (1010)

He said: Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to express my appreciation to Members opposite for their co-operation in allowing this motion to come forth, providing unanimous consent to allow that to happen. I know my colleague, the Hon. Member for Annapolis Valley—Hants (Mr. Nowlan), constantly reminds me of the fact he has more seniority than myself. He tried to assert that again today, but I appreciate his courtesy in yielding the floor to me under the circumstances. I am sure he will have an opportunity to speak later on this day.

I am very pleased to address the motion which is before us this morning. The motion, as you know, Mr. Speaker, is presented in the name of the Hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Hnatyshyn) who is in Winnipeg this morning on Government