

Committee Reports

● (1110)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSEFINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS—NINETEENTH REPORT OF
STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of presenting the nineteenth report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, in both official languages. The report recommends substantial changes to the Bank Act and regulations. Later this morning, a Private Members' Bill will be introduced complying with the terms of the report, and introducing an appropriate Bill.

The Bill will deal with how bank charges are to be imposed. It will limit the ability to impose charges under certain circumstances and will provide stiff penalties for non-compliance with the Bank Act.

[Editor's Note: See Votes and Proceedings.]

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WESTERN GRAIN STABILIZATION ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The Hon. Doug Lewis (for the Minister of State (Grains and Oilseeds)) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-132, an Act to amend the Western Grain Stabilization Act.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Hon. Minister shall have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

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CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURE TO AMEND

The Hon. Doug Lewis (for the Minister of Agriculture) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-133, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (Pari-mutuel betting).

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Hon. Minister shall have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

BANK ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. W. Paul McCrossan (York-Scarborough) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-292, an Act to amend the Bank Act (fair banking practices).

Mr. Speaker: Mr. McCrossan, seconded by Mrs. Collins, moves for leave to introduce a Bill entitled, an act to amend the Bank Act (fair banking practices).

Mr. McCrossan: I would like to point out that we had arranged that the Hon. Member for Trinity (Miss Nicholson) would second the Bill. I am sorry if that was not communicated to the Table.

Mr. Speaker: I am very pleased to ask the House to permit me to change that accordingly, and I thank the Hon. Member for Trinity. Mr. McCrossan, seconded by Miss Nicholson, moves for leave to introduce a Bill entitled, an act to amend the bank act (fair banking practices).

Is it the pleasure of the House that the Member shall have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. McCrossan: Mr. Speaker, this Bill will provide a means of implementing the nineteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. It is the result of some months of hearings into bank service charge practices. I would like to indicate that the regulations in the Bill will allow the prohibition of the common practice of having consumers waive their consumer rights when they open bank accounts. It will also allow the Government to set disclosure standards for future banking practices as well as prohibit certain bank service charges which the committee unanimously feels are not in the public interest.

I would like to thank all the Members of the committee, both government Members and Opposition, for their support with respect to this Bill.

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

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PETITIONS

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present a petition in accordance with Standing Order 106. The petition is signed by a number of residents in the constituency of Spadina and the City of Toronto who are concerned that the Conservative Government, having no mandate from the people of Canada to conclude a free trade agreement with the United States, has in fact undertaken to do