

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, May 17, 1990

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

I am aware that this morning you were given notice of a question of privilege. In the interest of getting Routine Proceedings out of the way, and especially the tabling of the important report of the Meech committee and putting it before the people of Canada, it would be agreeable if we have Routine Proceedings first and then proceed with the question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to 25 petitions.

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

[Translation]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

STRIKING COMMITTEE—TABLING OF FORTY-FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to table the forty-first report of the Striking Committee.

COMMITTEE TO STUDY A PROPOSED COMPANION RESOLUTION TO THE MEECH LAKE ACCORD

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the report of the Special Committee to study a Proposed Companion Resolution to the Meech Lake Accord.

[English]

It is the belief of the committee members that the conclusions and recommendations, and there are more than 20 of them, reached after hearing 160 witnesses and receiving more than 800 written submissions, may form the basis for resolving the current constitutional impasse by the June 23 deadline.

Mr. Speaker, your committee concludes that a companion resolution process that formally adds to the provisions of the Meech Lake Accord, without subtracting from it, has the best prospect of solving the current constitutional impasse. I wish to point out that such a companion resolution can only be negotiated by First Ministers.

• (1110)

[Translation]

Committee members agree, Mr. Speaker, that negotiations must maintain the perspective of the statement made at the meeting of provincial Premiers in the summer of 1986, to the effect that the constitutional talks should be aimed at bringing Quebec back as an active participant in the Canadian Constitution.