

## SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 7.36 p.m.

**Mr. Evans:** Mr. Speaker, I think there is a disposition or unanimous consent to revert to the tabling of reports of standing and special committees and to recognize the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier).

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** Is there unanimous consent to revert to the presentation of reports?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

## MISCELLANEOUS ESTIMATES

## PRESENTATION OF FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the first report of the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates. Also I would like to table evidence on Bill C-24 with this report, as agreed.

**Mr. Evans:** Mr. Speaker, contrary to normal procedure, if you would seek unanimous consent, you would find that there is unanimous consent for us to receive the report now and to proceed with report stage and third reading of this Bill at this sitting tonight.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** Is there unanimous consent for the proposal just enunciated by the Parliamentary Secretary?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

## FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT

## MEASURE TO AMEND

**Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board)** moved that Bill C-24, an Act to amend the Financial Administration Act in relation to Crown corporations and to amend other Acts in consequence thereof, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** When shall the Bill be read the third time?

*Financial Administration Act*

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** By leave, now.

**Mr. Gray** moved that the Bill be read the third time and do pass.

He said: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to take part in the debate on third reading of Bill C-24 and to speak briefly about a Bill which has been changed through amendments that were worked out through the efforts of members of all Parties. Because of this agreement, it is clear that this Bill will be adopted by the time the House adjourns tomorrow.

The Bill, as amended, speaks highly indeed of what can be the effectiveness of our parliamentary process, especially committee stage, and of a willingness on the part of the Government, the Official Opposition and other Hon. Members to consider carefully and respond to the views expressed about the Bill, including those of witnesses at the committee and key people such as the Auditor General, those in the business community, the arts community and other interested groups like the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

● (1940)

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the Government and the Opposition have worked together to make a practical and effective Bill, a Bill of which all Members may be proud. Our joint efforts in the course of this parliamentary process will result in the first major and successful update in more than thirty years of the legal framework that provides for control and accountability with respect to Crown corporations. That is no small achievement.

The purpose of Bill C-24 is to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the corporations' chief executive officers and boards of directors, of Ministers, the Government and Parliament, and to establish this updated legal framework for control and accountability of Crown corporations. Mr. Speaker, the Bill, including the amendments on which agreement was reached in committee, will provide that framework. I would now like to highlight very briefly the main amendments that were made.

[English]

There has been much discussion about the inclusion of the cultural corporations in the legislation in its original form. One of the major concerns expressed has been that from the point of view of the arts community, the legislation appeared to give too much authority over program priorities of the cultural corporations. Therefore, in response to these concerns, the Canada Council, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the National Arts Centre and the Canadian Film Development Corporation will not be covered by this Bill. It is the Government's intention to clarify its accountability framework for them and other cultural corporations, where necessary, through separate legislative measures.

In drafting this Bill, we intended that it would be binding on the Crown, and we obtained the view of the Department of