

Committee Reports

This conference was of importance for it marked the first time parliamentarians from western hemispheric countries gathered to discuss drug abuse and the illicit traffic in drugs. The conference was historic in that it considered drug abuse problems from what has been termed a balanced approach. The focus was not only on controlling supply through increased interdiction and domestic law enforcement, but also on the need to reduce the demand for drugs and to take steps nationally and internationally to restrict production and trafficking in illicit drugs.

Canada has clearly recognized the need to adopt a truly balanced approach. Through our participation in this conference we recognized the role Canada can play in assisting other nations to develop and implement their own programs, while at the same we reconfirmed the value of the Canadian approach to preventing drug abuse problems.

This balanced Canadian approach to drug abuse problems has been recently articulated in the national drug strategy and in last month's report of the Standing Committee on National Health and Welfare. Canada has recognized that drug abuse is not limited to one drug or class of drugs, nor can it be dealt with simply by imposing increasingly harsh penalties on those who abuse illicit drugs. Through our participation in this western hemispheric conference we became more appreciative of the work Canada is doing internationally and the potential for additional Canadian contributions in preventing drug abuse problems.

● (1210)

Through additional bilateral agreements and through collaborative efforts with international bodies, especially the United Nations, Canada can assist other nations to develop drug abuse prevention programs that are effective in reducing the demand for drugs, in developing culturally relevant treatment programs, in assisting nations to draft laws consistent with international standards of justice, in the training of customs and law enforcement personnel and in many other areas.

There are clear differences between the approach to drug abuse taken by Canadians and that taken by some other nations. While recognizing and respecting these differences, it is also important that Canada clearly state its position. This is especially true with regard to the need to work internationally to reduce illicit drug production, to restrict the trafficking in illicit drugs and to take steps to reduce the demand—

Mr. Speaker: I hesitate to interrupt the Hon. Member except to say that the Hon. Member has probably gone on well beyond the ordinary constraints of introducing a report. However, in view of the very great importance of the report I was constrained from interrupting, but I do hope that Hon. Members will keep in mind that if they go on overly long other Hon. Members will, of course, ask for equal time.

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

BILL C-60—REPORT OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward—Hastings): Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the legislative committee on Bill C-60, an Act to amend the Copyright Act and to amend other Acts in consequence thereof, I have the honour to present the Bill to the House, with amendments, with a great deal of relief.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—NINTH AND TENTH REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Bill Kempling (Burlington): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the ninth and tenth reports of the Standing Committee on Private Members' Business in both official languages.

The ninth report deals with the late filing of the petition for Private Bill S-14, an Act to authorize Cooperants, Mutual Life Insurance Society to be continued as a corporation under the laws of the Province of Quebec pursuant to Standing Order 142.

If the House agrees, I intend to move concurrence of the ninth report later this day.

The tenth report deals with the selection of a votable item pertaining to the eighth draw which took place on November 26, 1987. May I note, pursuant to Standing Order 36.1(b) that this tenth report is deemed adopted and laid upon the Table.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—CONCURRENCE IN NINTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Bill Kempling (Burlington): Mr. Speaker, if there is unanimous consent, I move that the ninth report of the Standing Committee on Private Members' Business presented to the House earlier this day be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

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PETITIONS

CALL FOR GENERAL ELECTION ON CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, the struggle starts now. I have the first of many petitions on the free trade agreement.

The petitioners say as follows: Whereas the trade agreement negotiated by the Mulroney Government threatens the very fabric of Canadian political and economic sovereignty by removing the power of the Canadian Government to control effectively foreign ownership to develop Canadian energy resources in the best interests of Canadians or to equalize opportunities between regions, the petitioners humbly pray and