

issues. They would much rather see us concentrate on one or the other. These are some of the concerns which were raised before the committee. I commend the House for it will be passing this resolution today. Also I commend the nine Provinces that will pass similar resolutions, and I am pleased that my Province of Alberta was the first one to deal with this.

In conclusion, I would like to place two more quotations on the record because I think they are very important. The first quotation is by the National Native Council and the second one is by the Inuit Council for National Issues. They both indicated to the committee that while there are difficulties with the process, such as some of the matters which I mentioned today, this resolution must pass and must pass quickly. The first is a quote from Mr. Smokey Bruyère who represents as well the Native Women's Association of Canada. He said:

The statement that I am going to make is designed to express some very real anxieties that we, as aboriginal leaders, are hearing from our people. But these statements should not be interpreted or used by any Member of any Party to delay the passage of this critical Bill.

I think that remark was also directed to the attention of the Senate. The next statement which I will quote was made by the Inuit Council for National Issues before the Committee last night. It said:

It is our understanding, however, that the equality provision is a priority agenda item for the next First Ministers' Conference and we realize that the only way to pursue this issue further is through the ongoing process. We would prefer to deal with the matter in this way rather than place in jeopardy passage of the resolution.

On being questioned they again said that they were pleased with the progress and with the section referring to land claims and they thought that the resolution ought to pass.

I thought it was important to have on record those statements by the four groups that appeared before us in the last day and a half so that all Parties of the House, the Government, its Ministers and the Senate will attempt to pass the resolution and take cognizance of the various problems of these groups with the process. I am very pleased to have been given an opportunity to speak again on the resolution. This is an historic debate because it is the first amendment to the Constitution, and there is no need to have it ratified by any other Parliament.

Mr. Caccia: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. There seems to be disposition for me to table certain documents, and I seek permission to do so.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Is there unanimous consent for the Hon. Minister to table certain documents?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Constitution

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

TABLING OF REPORT RESPECTING CANADIAN POSITION

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to table, in both official languages, copies of a report entitled, "Canadian Position with Respect to Conventions and Recommendations Adopted at the 66th and 67th Sessions of the International Labour Conference" held in Geneva in June 1980 and June 1981. In conformity with the new Standing Order, I suggest that the report be referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

● (1800)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT PROCLAMATION, 1983

MOTION TO AMEND CONSTITUTION OF CANADA

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. MacGuigan:

That:

Whereas the Constitution Act, 1982 provides that an amendment to the Constitution of Canada may be made by proclamation issued by the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada where so authorized by resolutions of the Senate and House of Commons and resolutions of the legislative assemblies as provided for in section 38 thereof;

And Whereas the Constitution of Canada, reflecting the country and Canadian society, continues to develop and strengthen the rights and freedoms that it guarantees;

And Whereas, after a gradual transition of Canada from colonial status to the status of an independent and sovereign state, Canadians have, as of April 17, 1982, full authority to amend their Constitution in Canada;

And Whereas historically and equitably it is fitting that the early exercise of that full authority should relate to the rights and freedoms of the first inhabitants of Canada, the aboriginal peoples;

Now Therefore the House of Commons resolves that His Excellency the Governor General be authorized to issue a proclamation under the Great Seal of Canada amending the Constitution of Canada as follows:

PROCLAMATION AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION OF CANADA

1. Paragraph 25(b) of the Constitution Act, 1982 is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

"(b) any rights or freedoms that now exist by way of land claims agreements or may be so acquired."

2. Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 is amended by adding thereto the following subsections:

"(3) For greater certainty, in subsection (1) "treaty rights" includes rights that now exist by way of land claims agreements or may be so acquired.