

Statute Revision Act

● (1540)

[English]

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, there has been a suggestion among the House leaders in regard to facilitating the business. While my hon. friend from Lambton-Kent will be our next speaker on this bill, and while hopefully he will speak for a few minutes on the bill before four o'clock, there are two other bills that the government House leader is anxious to forward and get through second reading and into committee. I think that could be done now, as long as my hon. friend will be entitled to the floor when we are through and we revert to this particular bill.

Mr. Coates: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order, I believe it will be my private member's bill that will be debated this afternoon, so we need not see the clock until five or ten minutes past the hour to facilitate this suggestion.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, why don't we move time ahead instead of pushing it back? I suggest that the hon. member for Lambton-Kent (Mr. Holmes) rise now and move adjournment of this debate, that we then take the two bills that the government House leader has in mind, and then start the bill of my hon. friend from Nova Scotia, even at five minutes to four.

● (1550)

Mr. Holmes: Mr. Speaker, having listened to the observations from all sides of the House I would be prepared to move the adjournment of the debate at this time, maintaining the floor when the House next considers this bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Baldwin, moves that the debate be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

On motion of Mr. Holmes the debate was adjourned.

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STATUTE REVISION ACT

MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR REVISION AND CONSOLIDATION OF STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (for the Minister of Justice) moved that Bill S-3, to provide for a continuing revision and consolidation of the statutes and regulations of Canada, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

[Mr. Sauvé.]

ACT TO REVISE REFERENCES TO COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH OF PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MEASURE TO AMEND STATUTES IN VIEW OF ABOLITION OF COURT

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (for the Minister of Justice) moved that Bill S-16, to revise references to the Court of Queen's Bench of the province of Quebec, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It being four o'clock the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, public bills, notices of motions, private bills.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT PUBLICATION OF PUBLIC OPINION POLL RESULTS

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North) moved that Bill C-213, to amend the Canada Elections Act (publication of the result of opinion polls), be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

He said: Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time I have debated the subject matter of this bill in this House, but I hope it will be the last.

In view of the fact that this parliament should last for approximately four years, short of some calamity we cannot anticipate at the moment, hon. members of this House should be in a better position to put their own houses in order, in so far as future election campaigns are concerned, by developing in one manner or another a more realistic approach to electioneering, and attempting in every way possible to assist the public in making reasoned judgments as to which political party and candidate should be supported in a constituency.

This bill has the support of the leader of my party. That hon. member, like myself and many other Canadians, has indicated a growing concern about the use of polls during election campaigns. I have no objection to their use by political organizations, individuals, groups or companies. It is my belief that such use has become a part of our way of life, and we accept the fact that polls are a vital and useful source of information in certain instances.

What has concerned me from the beginning, and concerns me today, is the fact that we have no rules or regulations associated with the use of polls and the results being placed before the public as authenticated information on which the public can draw conclusions. I am fearful that the use of such information by the media can be developed in such a way that people are misled or