

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, November 22, 1991

The House met at 10 a.m.

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*Prayers*

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### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

#### FEDERAL REAL PROPERTY ACT

##### MEASURE TO ENACT

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-3, an act respecting the acquisition, administration and disposition of real property by the Government of Canada, as reported (with amendment) from Legislative Committee F.

**Hon. Gilles Loisele (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance))** moved that the bill, as amended, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** When shall the bill be read the third time? By leave, now?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Loisele** moved that the bill be read the third time and passed.

He said: Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to lead the debate on third reading of this bill.

Bill C-3 is the cornerstone for a new regime of real property management by the government. This new regime will improve services to the public. It will improve internal government efficiencies and it will bring real property conveyancing by the government into the modern era.

I would like to take a few moments to summarize some of the main features of this bill. First, Bill C-3 is designed to be the primary authority for real property

transactions by the federal government. The existing legislation in this area no longer creates a unified framework for real property transactions. Bill C-3 would consolidate the three main real property statutes into one act, with one framework and one set of rules.

Second, Bill C-3 would simplify and modernize real property management and conveyance practices by the government. The current statutes have been essentially unchanged for some time and do not allow the use of modern real property methods or practices. Even a transaction involving a small piece of property can take much longer to complete than would be normal in the private sector. Bill C-3 would improve this situation.

This bill would also permit the use of conveyancing practices commonly used within the private sector, thus making it easier to deal with the federal government. We will be able to carry out a real property transaction in a province in a way familiar to the people of that province. This will make transactions by the government not only more efficient but also simpler and more understandable by the public.

Bill C-3 has been designed so that it would not affect real property governed by special program legislation such as the National Parks Act or the Territorial Lands Act. Bill C-3 is a residual statute and its provisions would be overridden by specialized legislation.

Finally this bill would clarify the role of Treasury Board to manage more effectively real property conveyancing. It would verify the role of custodian departments to undertake real property transactions more effectively and it would finally clarify the role of the Department of Justice to ensure quality control in transactions. Real property managers in the government will be given more direct responsibility in real property transactions and will be held accountable for the results.

In conclusion, I believe this bill will lead to both increased efficiency in government operations and improved service to the public. I would like to thank members of the House for their co-operation on this bill and request that the bill be passed.