

Mr. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I seek the consent of the House to revert to presenting reports of standing and special committees.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there consent to revert to presentation of reports?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Fourth report of Standing Committee on Transport and Communications—Mr. Campbell.

[Editor's Note: For text of above report see today's *Votes and Proceedings*.]

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VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

ERROR IN FRENCH VERSION

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Before reverting to orders of the day and putting the question to the House for third reading on Bill C-10, I draw the attention of hon. members to a discrepancy that appears in yesterday's *Votes and Proceedings*. The English version indicates that the motion in the name of the hon. member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre) on Bill C-10 was negatived. In the French version it is indicated that it was adopted. I wish to inform hon. members that a correction will be made and it will be indicated in both versions that the motion was negatived.

● (1412)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT

AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Cullen (for Mr. Andras) that Bill C-10, to amend the Financial Administration Act, be read the third time and do pass.

Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure to be back in Ottawa, having arrived back last night to find Bill C-10 before the House. I am sorry I missed the opportunity to debate it on second reading but I am grateful to be here to make a few comments on third reading.

Financial Administration Act

In my capacity as chairman of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts I would take this opportunity to pay tribute to the members who have served so well and worked so hard this session on that committee. We have been deeply involved in the subject of the establishment of a comptroller general as well as in finding ways to improve the financial control and management systems throughout the departments, agencies, and Crown corporations of the government.

I would particularly like to pay tribute to the members on the Public Accounts Committee from the government side. I hesitate to single out any particular member, but in the work we have been doing these last few months, involving an average of four meetings a week, the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Francis), the hon. member for Pontiac (Mr. Lefebvre), the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Clarke), and I have all worked long and hard on the second report of the committee on Crown corporations, which we tabled two weeks ago. For members on the government side, particularly, this is a low profile committee which works hard at fundamental subject matter, trying to build a new and stronger foundation, under the operation, control, and management of our federal resource. I am grateful to these members as well as to my colleagues on this side of the House for the hard work they have put into the carrying out of their responsibilities.

I would also like to pay tribute to the Auditor General, Mr. J. J. Macdonell, who has presented the House with three fundamental reports which have led to improving the structure, the financial management control system and the degree of accountability. He has acted in a manner which will relieve the Public Accounts Committee from having to deal with matters which repeat year after year in the Auditor General's report. As a result of Mr. Macdonell's approach to his responsibilities, and he is an officer of parliament reporting to parliament through the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, a sound foundation is being laid for the departments, agencies, and Crown corporations of the federal government, and I believe the Standing Committee on Public Accounts is functioning in a manner whereby proper review and accountability are now being noticed throughout these various aspects of the federal government.

In considering Bill C-10 to amend the Financial Administration Act, an act primarily to appoint a comptroller general, it is important to note that the growth of government has probably been too fast and has been ahead of any infrastructure offering the type of control and accountability that we, as members, should demand on behalf of our constituents.

The tireless efforts of the Auditor General through the Standing Committee on Public Accounts have brought a realization that a chief financial officer is indeed needed at the Treasury Board level. Having worked on this subject matter for some time now, I can see the sense of the chief financial officer, the comptroller general, reporting through the Treasury Board to the House, though some of my colleagues may disagree with me. He is the one responsible for putting in place within our agencies, departments, and Crown corporations,