

Access to Information

office intended to issue a postage stamp commemorating the royal wedding. In view of the fact that a year has come and gone since that time and that the stork has beaten the post office, could the parliamentary secretary indicate when the post office will be supplying an answer to that question?

Mr. Smith: Madam Speaker, I do not know the answer to that offhand but I will be happy to make inquiries on behalf of the hon. member.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

MEASURE TO AMEND CERTAIN ACTS

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-43, to enact the Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act, to amend the Federal Court Act and the Canada Evidence Act, and to amend certain other acts in consequence thereof, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Madam Speaker: Just before the House enters into debate I would like to indicate the grouping and voting arrangement for the report stage. Motion No. 1 standing in the name of the Minister of Communications (Mr. Fox) should be debated and voted on separately. Motions Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 in the name of the Minister of Communications and motions Nos. 10, 21 and 22 standing in the name of the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) concerning disclosure and access to information should be debated together but voted on separately. Motions Nos. 6, 9 and 18 should be debated together and, if required, voted on separately. Motions Nos. 7, 8, 19 and 20 should be debated together with a vote on motion No. 7 disposing of motion No. 8 and the vote on motion No. 19 disposing of motion No. 20.

Motions Nos. 11 and 12 should be debated separately and voted on separately. Motion No. 15 in the name of the hon. member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Beatty) gives the Chair some misgivings concerning its procedural acceptability. The motion appears to go beyond the scope of the bill. However, there is some doubt in the mind of the Chair in that Clause 3 to Schedule 2 defines personal information as "(c) any identifying number". Because of this doubt, and unless I am persuaded otherwise, it is the Chair's intention to give the hon. member the benefit of this doubt and to put the motion to the House.

Therefore, as motions Nos. 13, 14, 16, 17 and 26 are consequential and related to motion No. 15, it is my intention to group them for debate with a vote on motion No. 15 disposing of motions Nos. 13, 14, 16, 17 and 26.

Motions Nos. 23 and 24 should be debated separately and voted on separately. Motion No. 25 in the name of the hon.

member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe seeks to amend two acts which are not before the House. Therefore, in accordance with Beauchesne's Fifth Edition, Citations 792 and 773(8)(a), I must rule that motion No. 25 is not acceptable. However, the hon. member, if he so wishes, may present his arguments in favour of the motion when it is called.

[Translation]

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications) moved:

Motion No. 1

That Bill C-43, An Act to enact the Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act, to amend the Federal Court Act and the Canada Evidence Act, and to amend certain other Acts in consequence thereof, be amended by adding immediately after line 4 at page 2 the following

"AMENDMENT TO ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

6. If, during the first session of the thirty-second Parliament, an Act entitled the *Canadian Ownership and Control Determination Act* is assented to, Schedule II to the *Access to Information Act* shall be amended by adding thereto, immediately after the reference to the Canada Pension Plan, a reference to the Canadian Ownership and Control Determination Act and a corresponding reference in respect of that Act to section 49.

7. If, during the first session of the thirty-second Parliament, an Act entitled the *Energy Monitoring Act* is assented to, Schedule II to the *Access to Information Act* shall be amended by adding thereto, immediately after the reference to the *Defence Supplies Act*, a reference to the *Energy Monitoring Act* and a corresponding reference in respect of that Act to section 33.

8. If, during the first session of the thirty-second Parliament, an Act entitled the *Motor Vehicle Fuel Consumption Standards Act* is assented to, Schedule II to the Access to Information Act shall be amended by adding thereto, immediately after the reference to the Canada Labour Code, a reference to the *Motor Vehicle Fuel Consumption Standards Act* and a corresponding reference in respect of that Act to subsection 27(1).

9. If, during the first session of the thirty-second Parliament, an Act entitled the *Petroleum Incentives Program Act* is assented to, Schedule II to the *Access to Information Act* shall be amended by adding thereto, immediately after the reference to the *Petroleum Corporations Monitoring Act*, a reference to the *Petroleum Incentives Program Act* and a corresponding reference in respect of that Act to section 17."

and by renumbering Clause 6 as Clause 10.

● (1510)

He said: Mr. Speaker, this afternoon, the House will be asked to vote on an extremely important bill, perhaps one of the most important pieces of legislation to appear on the Order Paper of the House during this session. It is important, Mr. Speaker, because it will make changes in our parliamentary institutions, changes which will have long-term consequences for our democracy.

Briefly, Bill C-43 meets three major objectives:

[English]

First, it creates for every Canadian and permanent resident a right of access to the information held by more than 130 federal government institutions. It spells out the necessary limits of that right as well as the conditions under which it can be exercised. It makes this right of access meaningful by providing independent and external review over government