

*Foreign Arbitral Awards*

**Mr. Kaplan:** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Liberal Party, we are prepared to deal with these two Bills now. The Government delayed bringing them forward and has now reached a deadline. We are very sympathetic with the objectives of this legislation and we are prepared to co-operate.

**Mr. Deans:** We are also quite prepared to deal with the two Bills now. I wish it to be clear that each of the opposition Parties will have 15 minutes in order to put their views on the record and one speaker each.

**Mr. Speaker:** I suggest that the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Hnatyshyn) put forward a motion to adjourn debate on Bill C-96.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** I so move the adjournment of the debate, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I was ready to participate in debate on Bill C-96, as were a number of my colleagues. It seems that by agreement we are now moving to some other matter. I suggest that the debate be adjourned so that those of us who wish to speak on Bill C-96 can leave. If the matters are disposed of before six o'clock, I suggest that the House adjourn at that time.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, Members of the House know that if there is any possibility of my missing a speech of the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme), I would hate to have that happen. I agree to his proposition so that I can hear him tomorrow morning.

**Mr. Gauthier:** I rise on a point or order, Mr. Speaker. Before we proceed to these other matters, will the Government House Leader tell us what we will be dealing with tomorrow morning at eleven o'clock?

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** We intend to carry on with Bill C-96, Mr. Speaker.

On the motion of Mr. Hnatyshyn, the debate was adjourned.

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● (1720)

### UNITED NATIONS FOREIGN ARBITRAL AWARDS CONVENTION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada)** moved that Bill C-107, an Act to implement the United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

He said: Mr. Speaker, in my brief remarks I will touch on Bill C-107, which is an Act to implement the United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign

Arbitral Awards, and Bill C-108, which is an Act relating to commercial arbitration.

The UN Convention to which Canada wishes to accede was originally agreed upon on June 2, 1958. I am pleased that with the co-operation of the Official Opposition and the New Democratic Party, we are able to proceed with these two Bills today. We have been working toward acceding to the UN Convention in Canada and have been enacting legislation which will apply the commercial arbitration procedures to the federal area of jurisdiction for some months now, in co-operation with the Province of British Columbia, which is especially interested in this matter. It is interested because it wishes to establish a commercial arbitration centre in Vancouver. As a matter of fact, on Monday I will be in British Columbia to attend a conference on arbitration sponsored by the Province. Its new arbitration centre will be officially opened at that time. The people of British Columbia hope that its commercial arbitration centre will be the leading place for commercial arbitration in the Pacific Rim. We wish to assist the Province in this objective. Of course, it will vastly enhance the achievement of that objective if Canada accedes to this UN Convention. In any event, it will be to the benefit of the commercial community in Canada. It will be a great boost to those who engage in international trade and export trade to have Canada accede to this Convention.

We have the agreement of all 10 provinces and both territories, which have all agreed that Canada should accede to the Convention. They have all agreed to pass the necessary legislation this spring. As Hon. Members know, there are elections to be held in several provinces, which could delay the matter somewhat. However, all provinces are onside and will join us in passing uniform Bills which will relate to commercial arbitration. British Columbia has already passed such legislation. The matter is now before the legislatures of a number of other provinces and the rest have committed themselves to passing such legislation this spring, or certainly this year.

I will not elaborate any further on the matter. This is a matter of private international law. It is a step which Canada should have taken some considerable time ago. I am pleased to be in the position to move that the House adopt both of these Bills. I believe it is agreed that we pass them through all stages today. I will then be able to pass the news on to the Province and to those who attend this meeting next week in British Columbia that the federal Government has agreed to the legislation. I have no doubt that the Senate will move quickly on the matter.

I thank my colleagues in the Opposition for their co-operation in this endeavour.

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, Members of the House know of the great respect I have for the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie). It is not only because of that respect that I am pleased to be able to support these Bills and their quick passage. It is also because of their importance.