

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I move:

That, further to the order of the House made Tuesday, November 7, 1989, respecting the adjournment of the House on November 30 and December 1, 1989:

On Monday, November 27, 1989, the House, on Government Orders, shall dispose of Ways and Means Proceeding No. 8, and then consider and complete report stage and third reading of Bill C-36, with the Speaker interrupting at 4.45 p.m. that day, if necessary, any debate then under way and putting every question necessary to dispose of the said stages of the said bill, successively and without further amendment or debate. Following the completion of proceedings on Bill C-36, Private Members' Business shall be called and taken up for one hour, after which the House shall resume debate on the motion for second reading of Bill C-43, an act respecting abortion, and on any amendment thereto, until 10 o'clock p.m., when the debate and the House shall be adjourned until 10.00 o'clock a.m., Tuesday, November 28, 1989;

That, on Tuesday, November 28, 1989, the House will sit at 10.00 o'clock a.m. on Government Orders and shall resume debate on the motion for second reading of Bill C-43, with the Speaker recognizing the Prime Minister at 11.00 o'clock a.m.; following the speech of the Prime Minister the question on the said motion, and on any amendment thereto, shall be deemed to have been put and a recorded division on the same shall be deemed to have been requested and deemed to be deferred until 1.00 o'clock p.m. that day;

That the sitting stand suspended until 1.00 o'clock p.m., when the Speaker shall cause the bells to ring for 15 minutes to call in the Members, following which the said recorded division or divisions shall be called, following which the House shall stand suspended until 3.00 o'clock p.m., at which time Statements by Members and Oral Questions will be called, followed by Routine Proceedings, following which the Speaker shall adjourn the House until 2.00 o'clock p.m., Wednesday, November 29, 1989; and

That, on Wednesday, November 29, 1989, the Orders of the Day shall be a non-votable Opposition motion as a Supply Proceeding.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Does the hon. Government House Leader have the unanimous consent of the House to move the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

Government Orders

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Lewis that Bill C-43, an act respecting abortion, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, in rising to participate this afternoon on the second reading debate of Bill C-43, it is my intention to be brief because the points I have to make can be made simply and quickly.

I wish first of all to say that although I do not share their views I do respect the deeply held personal, religious, ethical and moral convictions of those who cannot bring themselves to support what I consider to be a woman's right to abortion.

During the federal general election last year it was my privilege to be invited into many homes in the riding of Edmonton East and in many of those homes I encountered constituents who devoutly believed that abortion was wrong. I do not in any way question the sincerity of those beliefs. Again, while not agreeing with them, I recognize them as legitimate beliefs held by those people.

However, in my opinion—and this opinion was arrived at over the course of years—the fundamental right of each Canadian woman to the security of person guaranteed her in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms overrides all other considerations in this matter.

If I may, I would like to quote Section 7 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms:

Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice.

I can conceive of no greater principle of fundamental justice than the right to control one's own body. The right to control one's body is inherent in each and every individual and so long as that individual can exercise that control then that right is indivisible.