

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, May 30, 1991

The House met at 10 a.m.

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*Prayers*

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## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

### VISIT TO REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY AND CZECH AND SLOVAK FEDERAL REPUBLIC

TABLING OF REPORT

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I have the honour to lay upon the table the report of the official visit to the Republic of Hungary and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

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### AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS MARKETING ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Agriculture)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-16, an act to amend the Agricultural Products Marketing Act and to provide for other matters in relation thereto.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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### CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURE TO AMEND

**Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-17, an act to amend the Criminal Code and the Customs Tariff in consequence thereof.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

### MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT COMPENSATION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-212, an act respecting the establishment of a compensation fund for members of the House of Commons.

He said: Mr. Speaker, if I may say a couple of sentences about this bill. The purpose of the bill would be to set up a fund to help members pay the costs of any libel suits which they may incur in pursuit of their work.

• (1010)

Libel charges sometimes aimed at harassing the member in his work are occasionally brought against members as a result of statements they make in the House, to the press, in public and in private. The purpose of this fund would be to provide legal assistance so that the member is not stuck with a \$20,000 or \$30,000 bill for simply carrying out his functions. It would stop harassment by some heavily financed pressure groups and corporations which sometimes use legal suits as a way of stopping the member's actions on very important issues.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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### PETITIONS

CANADIAN FLAG

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to present to the House a petition signed by numerous residents of Kingston and the Islands who call upon this House to pass an act to make unlawful the desecration or destruction of the flag of Canada.

I note this particular petition is a thick one with several hundred signatures.