

PETITIONS

BROADCASTING ACT—AMENDMENT RESPECTING PORNOGRAPHY

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Wednesday, October 12, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, I have the usual Thursday question for the Government House Leader and request that he inform the House what business we will be dealing with for the remainder of this week and as far into next week as he can take us.

I have also spoken with him, and he realizes that I will be making this offer today, concerning the seven outstanding reports of the special committee on parliamentary reform which, after one and one-half years of steady work, produced ten reports—seven of which are still on the table—with total unanimity from the committee. They have now completed their work with the tenth report.

I discussed this with the Government House Leader at a House Leaders' meeting on September 14. At that time, he indicated that he would be speaking to his Cabinet colleagues to see whether or not we could pass all of those reports before prorogation which, I understand, is to happen some time before Christmas.

Anticipating that he might say something about consultation, I would think that the month that has transpired since September 14 would have been sufficient time for that kind of consultation. Since I believe, unlike he, that those reports will die with prorogation unless they are passed, we, and I understand the NDP also, are very concerned about implementing those seven reports which go to the very heart of meaningful parliamentary reform. I am informed by the Member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) that there was no agreement not to move concurrence in those reports. He informs me that no such agreement was entered into.

In any event, I am prepared to ask the Chair to seek unanimous consent to pass all seven of those reports today, at once, without any debate. I understand from talking with the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) that he is prepared to commit his Party to such consent. It will take two or three minutes to complete that process so we will not hold up any time in the House of Commons, and we will have those seven excellent reports in place which will give some substance and meaning to the reform which we have all been seeking for so many years. I would ask the Chair to seek that consent from the House.

Business of the House

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, the first part of the Hon. Member's question refers to the business of the House for the next few days. We shall continue, and I hope complete, the debate on Bill C-155, the legislation we shall be considering today, tomorrow and next Monday and Tuesday, unless otherwise specified. Regarding the latter part of the Hon. Member's remarks, I am surprised, and agreeably so, that the Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) should show an interest in parliamentary reform. I am prepared to believe that this suggestion is not a matter of political expediency but reflects a new desire for improving our parliamentary institution without drum rolls or trumpet flourishes and also, I should hope, without bells. In the circumstances, if the Hon. Member for Yukon wishes to make concrete proposals for parliamentary reform in general, covering both the House of Commons and the Senate, an important part of our Parliament, for reform that also reflects the present experiment, I can assure him that we are prepared to collaborate fully in order to negotiate these changes in a reasonable manner that will provide the basis for a sound and lasting reform. I can assure the Hon. Member that we are now examining these reports and are prepared to negotiate their application, and meanwhile, I hope he will follow up on his undertaking to negotiate in good faith on adjustments to be made in the light of our present experiment based on a major reform proposed in the third report of the same special committee on parliamentary reform.

[*English*]

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, I still request that you put that question seeking unanimous consent. It might appeal more to the Government House Leader, who now appears to be shying away from the adoption of those reports which have been approved by all Parties in committee and are ready for approval, that while I cannot make a more reasonable offer than to pass them all without debate, since it will only take two or three minutes, I will sweeten the pot for him and say that we are also prepared to pass all of those reports standing on the Order Paper dealing with Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments without debate, because they come from that joint committee with the approval of all Parties and with unanimity. We will pass all of those and it will take only two or three minutes to do that.

I also offer to him to pass Bill C-96 through all stages in one day and Bill C-168 through all stages in one day. I cannot be more reasonable than that, but I would ask you, Madam Speaker, to seek consent for dealing with those seven unanimous all-Party reports from the committee and see who opposes that consent.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, we are now testing a number of changes in the Standing Orders proposed in just one of the Committee's reports, the third report. I fail to understand, and once again, I do not doubt the Hon. Member's good faith or I prefer not to doubt it, but I fail to understand, when Parlia-