

Routine Proceedings

Can the Secretary of State not tell us today that he will continue the funding of this important program to the year 2000 as recommended by the members of the Standing Committee on Human Rights?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in the previous answer, what the executive director of the CCSD has done is totally inappropriate. He does not report to me. It is an arm's length organization that has been administering this program. In general we have been very pleased with the service, but we found this to be very unhelpful.

We are currently examining very carefully the entire proposition. I have indicated that I am very pleased by what I have seen in terms of what the program has been able to do. The Minister of Justice and myself and our two departments have been carefully examining some very good suggestions that have been made by the standing committee.

I made sure that my undersecretary called the Canadian Council and gave it whatever feeling we could. At an appropriate time, when I have received the consent of my colleagues, we will be making an announcement on the program.

Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland): My supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, is for the same minister, the Secretary of State.

The problem is that the staff of this program has been cut. The program is cut. The Canadian Council on Social Development does work at arm's length from the government, but since it has cut the staffing and virtually the program, could the Secretary of State not overrule yesterday's firing of the staff and show a commitment to this program by continuing it and announcing that today?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)): Mr. Speaker, I was given no notice prior to this letter having been sent out. It was never communicated to us.

I indicated that I found it very unhelpful and very unacceptable. I asked that the Undersecretary of State make the immediate call and, as I have said, we have given what I felt was a very, very positive feeling about the program and the direction we feel the government may be prepared to take.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

TABLING OF MOTION

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table, in both official languages, the following motion under the name of the Prime Minister:

That this House reaffirm its commitment to support, protect and promote linguistic duality in Canada as reflected by this House in the Constitutional Amendment, 1987 and the Official Languages Act, 1988.

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ORDER IN COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

TABLING AND REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEES

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): As well, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table, in both official languages, a number of Order in Council appointments which were made by the government.

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 110(1), these are deemed referred to the appropriate standing committees, a list of which is attached.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

Mr. Lewis: And while I am on my feet, I move:

That the House do now proceed to Orders of the Day.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. members: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion the yeas have it.

And more than five members having risen:

Mr. Speaker: Call in the members.