

Mr. Speaker: I have indicated to the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) that I would look at the “blues”, and if I find that there is something there that has transgressed our rules or in some other way is, under our rules, a matter with which I have to deal, I will return to the Chamber with it. If that should come about, I of course would make arrangements for any Hon. Member who might be affected to address the Chair. I think that that is where we can leave the matter at the moment.

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POINT OF ORDER

TABLING OF EXAMINATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ACCOUNTS OF CANADA LANDS COMPANY

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am seeking clarification from the Chair. It was our opinion that the Minister of Public Works (Mr. McInnes) was to ask at this time for the consent of the House to table a document regarding the examination of the accounts and the financial statements of the Canada Lands Company at Mirabel; this was to have been done at three o'clock. I notice that the Minister is not present in the Chamber. Perhaps the Deputy government House Leader could assist us in determining if the document is still under embargo at this time because I understand that it has not yet been tabled. Will the Minister table it at some other time? Is the document free from embargo if that is the case?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)): Mr. Speaker, there have been no communications with my office that the Minister was to do that in the House at three o'clock. He may be doing it, as the phrase goes, through the back door. In any event, I will check to see exactly when and where it is his intention to table it. I am sure the Hon. Member will be made aware of it as soon as possible.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)): Mr. Speaker, there are three Bills which the House will be proceeding with this afternoon. It is my understanding that we have consent to refer all three Bills to the Committee of the Whole House and to deal with all three stages of each Bill this afternoon. I think you will find consent for the Bills to be introduced and the motions put in that manner.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is there such unanimous consent?

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, it is the intention of the New Democratic Party caucus to give speedy

Canada Labour Code

passage to these pieces of legislation and we do agree to having them go to Committee of the Whole and to be dealt with at all stages today.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I understand that there have been consultations between our Party and the other Parties on this procedure. I see that the official critic for this Party has just entered the Chamber. I will hand him the document and he can skate around the issue if he wishes, but I think we will support that.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CANADA LABOUR CODE

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour) moved that Bill C-97, an Act to amend the Labour Code, be read the second time and, by unanimous consent, referred to the Committee of the Whole.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the proposed amendments to Part III of the Canada Labour Code which, as Hon. Members know, regulates conditions of work for several hundred thousand Canadian workers subject to federal labour jurisdiction.

The proposed amendments which were prepared after consultation with concerned employer and labour groups are designed to rectify a problem which has arisen in the every-day application of the Code and which concerns the pension, health and disability benefits of many Canadian workers. I would now like to take this opportunity to outline the nature of the legislative changes and the problems they address in the hope that Hon. Members on both sides of the House will see their way clear to pass these important and useful amendments as expeditiously as possible.

● (1530)

We are proposing to repeal subsections 59.52(2) and (3) as well as subsections 61.4(2.2) and (3) of Part III of the Code in order to replace them with a more comprehensive text concerning the accumulation of pension, health, and disability benefits by employees who are on child care or sick leave under the Code.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, for a better understanding of the problem the proposed amendments are intended to rectify, we should go back to June 1984. At the time, Mr. Speaker, this House adopted a series of amendments to all parts of the Canada Labour Code, including Part III.

The amendments were concerned with child care and provided that parents subject to federal labour jurisdiction could take twenty-four weeks unpaid leave in addition to the