

## THE ROYAL ASSENT

[Translation]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Madam Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the Chamber of the Honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Madam Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

And being returned.

**Madam Speaker** informed the House that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, royal assent to the following bills:

Bill S-13, an act to revive Montilac Ltd. and Socam Ltd.

Bill S-14, an act to revive Tremus Industries Limited.

Bill C-47, an act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the Government of Canada for the financial year ending March 31, 1981—Chapter No. 41.

Bill C-49, an act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the Government of Canada for the financial ending March 31, 1981—Chapter No. 42.

● (1710)

## PRIVATE BILLS

[Translation]

### CANADIAN MERCHANT SERVICE GUILD

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Deniger that Bill S-12, respecting the Canadian Merchant Service Guild, be read the third time and do pass.

**Mr. Pierre Deniger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State, Multiculturalism):** Madam Speaker, I have just had the good fortune of seeing again Mr. Justice Antonio Lamer, the representative of the Governor General and a former professor of fiscal and criminal law of mine. I had not seen him in at least five or six years. And here he is the representative of the Governor General and here I am a member of the House of Commons. Who would have thought that possible ten years ago!

As I was saying, there are today 4,693 members of the Guild who can be found all over Canada. Classified by categories, there are 1,197 captains, 1,900 executive officers, 1,200 mechanics and 396 pilots. There are 22 permanent employees.

As of September 30, 1979, the Guild had \$344,000 in assets; it had revenues amounting to \$1,193,000, and expenses amounting to \$1,146,456. Its structure has changed considerably and become much more complex in the process, so that it

### Canadian Merchant Service Guild

no longer corresponds to its statutory description. One now has to go by national statutes.

In short, Mr. Speaker, time being of the essence as there are other bills on the order paper, today the Guild needs a new incorporating act for many reasons. It must, by law, be given powers, purposes and aims that conform to the activities it has pursued for a long time and wishes to continue to pursue. In addition, this act must ratify what it has done in the past, and do away with any ambiguity with regard to its legal existence. Finally, the act must be flexible enough to allow it to develop, to expand its field of activity so that it can fully achieve its main objective, namely, the preservation of the interests of its members. This act, as it stands here before us, seems to be most adequate under the circumstances. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I should like once again to express my appreciation for the co-operation of hon. members of the Progressive Conservative Party and hon. members of the NDP in the matter of this bill which I consider important, not only because the bill itself is important but I feel the Guild is of exceptional importance. I really appreciate that co-operation.

● (1720)

[English]

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to say that the matter has been dealt with in an exhaustive way in the other place and I want to conform to my colleagues that several of us have looked at this bill closely. Inasmuch as the charter for the guild dates back to 1919-1920, some 60 years ago, it is not unfitting they would want to bring their charter into line with the requirements of the 1980s.

In reviewing the matter, I have one brief question which I will put at a later stage in Committee of the Whole. It has to do generally with an assurance from the sponsor—

**Mr. Knowles:** We are on third reading.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Order, please. I recognize the hon. member's difficulty because I had the same one myself. We are now in third reading. If the hon. member has a question he wants to put, or if there is some procedure he wants to follow, it might be wise to keep that in mind. When the hon. member sits down, we will finish third reading of this bill.

**Mr. Forrestall:** Mr. Speaker, my apologies. I was not aware we were on third reading. I have only one observation to make. In the development of the sections of the new act I had an earlier concern that there might be a transfer of liability from the association's various chapters, from wherever they may be located in Canada, to the national body, or from the national body back to the various branches. However, I am satisfied that that is not the case. I am quite prepared now to welcome the upgrading of the Canadian Merchant Service Guild charter. I would like to note on the record what an active role the 3,000 or 4,000 members of the Canadian officers guild have played in the last 60 years in the development of this country.