

Judges Act

● (1750)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, I have had consultations with my Opposition colleagues, and the order of business in the House has been modified as follows: As of now, we shall first proceed with consideration of two Bills which concern the judges and the Federal Court. Since both Bills will have to go to a committee of the whole and a number of amendments are possible, Hon. Members should judge for themselves and decide whether it is important to stay in the House or not. After the judges legislation, we shall quickly dispose of Bill S-24, since we have an agreement that only one speaker per party will be heard, followed by Bill C-119, where we also have an agreement for having only one speaker per party. As soon as these four Bills have been disposed of, whenever that may be, we shall adjourn until 11 o'clock tomorrow morning.

[English]

Mr. Lewis: Madam Speaker, that is in essence the agreement we have reached. I would ask that the Judges Bill, which we insisted be split, be called separately. On that understanding we are in agreement.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous agreement to the order of business just now enumerated by the Hon. President of the Privy Council.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent that the House shall adjourn when that order of business is completed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Is there unanimous consent for the Minister of Justice (Mr. MacGuigan) to introduce two Bills arising out of the Judges Act?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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JUDGES ACT—FEDERAL COURT ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-166, An Act to amend the Judges Act and the Federal Court Act.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall the Bill be read the second time? Later this day?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

AN ACT RESPECTING THE TAX COURT OF CANADA AND TO AMEND THE FEDERAL COURT ACT, THE JUDGES ACT AND THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1971

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH AND TO AMEND

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-167, An Act respecting the Tax Court of Canada, and to amend the Federal Court Act, the Judges Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall the Bill be read the second time? Later this day?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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JUDGES ACT—FEDERAL COURT ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice) moved that Bill C-166, An Act to amend the Judges Act and the Federal Court Act, be read the second time and referred to Committee of the Whole House.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I would first of all like to thank the Leaders and Members of both Opposition Parties for their co-operation in allowing this Bill and its companion Bill to come before us and to receive speedy passage. We are accommodating a good number of Provinces in putting this legislation through.

Bill C-166, Mr. Speaker, is an Act to amend the Judges Act and the Federal Court Act. Since it naturally falls into two segments, I will deal with each of those in turn. First, with respect to the Federal Court Act, I would point out that the Bill provides for an increase of four judges at the Federal Court of Appeal level, and two judges at the Trial Division level. Increases in the number of judges have been requested for some time by the Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice of the Federal Court, I might add, Mr. Speaker, with a great deal of pressing and persistence on their part. This increase in the number of judges takes into account the present case load as well as the projected increase in the next few years and the desirability of reducing the reliance, to a very substantial extent, on deputy judges.

Deputy judges, Mr. Speaker, are in practice judges of the provincial Superior Courts who have retired on account of age. The Bill will correct an anomaly by extending to a judge of the federal Court of Canada the right to elect to be a supernumerary judge on the same basis as, for example, judges of the Superior Courts of the Provinces.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the proposed amendments to the judges Bill are mainly of an administrative and technical nature. As Hon.