

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, December 2, 1986

The House met at 11 a.m.

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the House that negotiations between the Parties on Bill C-22 are continuing. Under those circumstances, the Government has no intention of moving on the motion of the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) which is on the Order Paper under Government Notices of Motion dated November 24, 1986.

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[Translation]

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill S-3, an Act to amend and repeal the Alliance Nationale Consolidated Act, 1945, to which the concurrence of this House is desired.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, you may recall that, yesterday, I raised the matter of what happens when the Senate sends a message to the House. I asked the Chair to inform Members of any comments and to explain whether it was an old custom that we sometimes had to wait until the next day to have these comments and hear what the Senate had to say about the Bill in question. Regarding the Bill I have just called, are there any comments, yes or no? And if so, may we hear them today?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member has raised a point which was raised obliquely in representations made yesterday and the Chair is considering the matter and will report back to the Chamber. I thank the Hon. Member.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

PRESENTATION OF FIRST REPORT OF STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the first report of the Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments.

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

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PETITIONS

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present several petitions concerning the imposition of a retaliatory tariff on imported books in the English language which has limited the access of Canadians to literature and information. The tariff has little negative effect on the publishing industry of the United States but penalizes Canadian consumers, book publishers, book sellers and distributors and Canada's culture. Rising book prices have placed a strain on the acquisition programs and policies of our nation's public and specialized libraries.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the undersigned humbly pray Parliament to drop this tariff which threatens to cause irreparable harm to the Canadian book industry and to compromise federal policy on our cultural industries within the context of the free trade talks.

[English]

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGE TO PATENT ACT

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 106 from residents of Winnipeg, Morden, Winkler, Portage la Prairie and others. The petitioners say that the federal Government's proposal to change the Patent Act relating to prescription drugs will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers and will severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs. Therefore, they humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject these