

have been tabled today by the Secretary of State for External Affairs or by the Minister of Justice who will have responsibility for administering this important treaty.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the treaty which was ratified yesterday was tabled last October.

Mr. MacFarlane: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I realize it is sometimes very difficult to assess whether a member is putting a preamble to his supplementary question. The reason that I mentioned the four members concerned was clearly to indicate to the minister concerned that interest in this case ranged all the way from Toronto to Hamilton, to Halifax and to Truro. I thought the supplementary was fairly important in that in a letter I have in my possession one of the officials indicated that perhaps the parties concerned are in another country. My supplementary was, if he could not go to his own country, did it not indicate that there was some concern about returning to that country?

Mr. Speaker: The more the hon. member is persuaded of the importance of his supplementary, the more important it might be to him to put his supplementary without a preamble.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

HOUSE OF COMMONS ANTI-NUISANCE ACT

MEASURE TO PROVIDE DISINCENTIVE FOR MEMBERS TO DELAY BUSINESS OF HOUSE

Mrs. Simma Holt (Vancouver-Kingsway) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-428, to amend the Senate and House of Commons Act.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mrs. Holt: Mr. Speaker, this is an act to be cited as the House of Commons Anti-Nuisance Act. The purpose of this bill is to amend the Senate and House of Commons Act to put an end to members attempting wanton delay and disruption of the House of Commons by proposing dilatory motions which they know to be unlikely to carry. According to the main estimates for 1976-77, it costs \$109.11 per minute to operate the House of Commons. That is the penalty set, \$109.11.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mrs. Holt: The annual cost—

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder whether the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. Holt) might be given sufficient attention to add one other sentence of explanation.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): This is not explanation; it is argument.

Electoral Boundaries

Mrs. Holt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is the cost per minute to keep this House operating, under the current estimates. The annual cost is \$57,347,185.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. In the circumstances, I would think the explanation given by the hon. member is sufficient to enable hon. members to understand the nature of the bill. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, before we give our consent to this motion, I rise on a point of order. I hope the hon. member realizes that if she is objecting to dilatory measures that waste the time of the House, she is in fact referring to most government bills which are introduced.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Marshall: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I state to the hon. member that I timed her, and she wasted \$218.22.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): On the same point of order raised by the leader of the NDP, Mr. Speaker, I would simply point out that the remarks he made about government bills apply to interventions from the NDP.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the House should understand clearly the question before it. At this stage it is solely the question whether or not the bill should be read the first time and printed, so that it can be circulated. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

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

* * *

[Translation]

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT ACT

OBJECTION TO COMMISSION REPORT RESPECTING QUEBEC

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is my duty to inform the House that an objection signed by the hon. members for Terrebbonne (Mr. Comtois), Laval (Mr. Roy), Beauce (Mr. Caron), Lévis (Mr. Guay), Gatineau (Mr. Clermont), Portneuf (Mr. Bussières), Saint-Jean (Mr. Smith), Mercier (Mr. Boulanger), Lapointe (Mr. Marceau) and Québec East (Mr. Duquet) has been filed with me, pursuant to Section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, to the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the province of Quebec.

[English]

OBJECTION TO COMMISSION REPORT RESPECTING ONTARIO

Mr. Speaker: May I also inform the House that an objection signed by the hon. members for Broadview (Mr. Gilbert), Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), Yorkton-