

Abolition of Court

Hon. Otto Lang (Minister of Justice) moved that Bill S-16, to revise references to the Court of Queen's Bench of the Province of Quebec, as reported from the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lang moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I assure hon. members that it is a Christmas point of order and not one of the kind on which I have risen on other days this week. I feel that those at the Table, the incumbents of the Chair, or whoever may be responsible, should be commended for the new numbering system pertaining to government orders. For donkeys' years the order number never corresponded with the bill number, and we were frequently confused when the order number was called. Now, Commons bills are so listed that the order number corresponds with the number of the bill, and Senate bills have an "S" put before their order number, corresponding to the number of each bill. I think it is a good system which has been worked out, and I offer to those responsible my congratulations. May they enjoy their Christmas.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, may I, too, offer my congratulations for the establishment of a new system which will clear up the confusion of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) and his colleagues.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Je suis d'accord!

Motion agreed to, and bill read the third time and passed.

Mr. Reid: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, as the House has completed a certain amount of business perhaps the House might rise or suspend its business until the calling of the bells or until it is prepared to come back.

Mr. Lefebvre: How about passing Bill C-44?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Just try, and see what happens!

● (1610)

The Acting Speaker: I am advised by the venerable looking and learned gentlemen at the Table that arrangements are being worked out for Royal consent. Mr. Speaker is expected shortly, at which time I believe the usual invitation he extends to all hon. members will be conveyed in his own inimitable fashion.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I certainly don't wish to interrupt any conversations concerning what we might do, but I understand that the other place is burdened with the responsibility of examining legislation which has been sent to it—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Is it giving the legislation sober second thoughts?

[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner).]

Mr. Speaker: Until that responsibility has been completed, hon. members who have already given evidence of their sense of duty by remaining in this chamber might continue to sacrifice themselves in the interest of their country by remaining in room 16 until such time as we are summoned back.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: If it is agreeable I will repair to room 16 to see to it that the services of the House of Commons are close at hand. Shall I suspend the sitting until the ringing of the bells?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

At 4.15 p.m. the sitting was suspended.

[Translation]

The House resumed at 5.45 p.m.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the following communication has been received:

Government House
Ottawa, December 20, 1974

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Right Honourable Bora Laskin, P.C., in his capacity as Deputy Governor General will proceed to the Senate chamber today, the 20th December, at 5.45 p.m. for the purpose of giving royal assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
André Garneau
Brigadier General
Administrative Secretary
to the Governor General

[English]

THE ROYAL ASSENT

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

Mr. Speaker, the Right Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

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

[Translation]

And being returned: