

Routine Proceedings

member or with any other hon. member in a few minutes.

Ms. Campbell (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. members will know, when there is an Order in Council for this appointment, it will be referred to the standing committee for 30 days for discussion. The standing committee is always free to call forward the person nominated to discuss the nature of the appointment.

As Some hon. members will know, the seven year appointment of the Information Commissioner and the Privacy Commissioner expired at midnight Friday, June 1, 1990. Under the Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act, commissioners are appointed by the Governor in Council under the Great Seal: "after approval of the appointment by resolution of the Senate and the House of Commons."

We have given notice of the two motions we would like to move today in the Notice Paper.

As the hon. members already know, the Privacy Act provides for the appointment of a Privacy Commissioner by Governor in Council under the Great Seal after the approval of the Senate and the House of Commons.

To obtain the House's approval, we put the following Notice on the Motion Paper on May 31, 1990:

That, in accordance with subsection 53(1) of the Act to extend the present laws of Canada that protect the privacy of individuals and that provide individuals with a right of access to personal information about themselves, Chapter P-21 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1985, this House approves the appointment of Bruce Phillips as Privacy Commissioner.

• (1530)

[*Translation*]

I am sure that Mr. Phillips is not unknown to you, especially through his work as a Member of the Parliamentary press gallery. If I may, however, I should like to give a brief rundown on of Mr. Phillips' career to assist the House in its consideration of this motion.

[*English*]

For 35 years Mr. Phillips has been a nationally-respected, award-winning journalist. He became a familiar face to Canadians when, in 1969, he joined the CTV Network as its Ottawa Bureau Chief. Previous to that, he

undertook assignments with Canadian Press, *The Calgary Herald* and Southam News Service.

Through his work as a journalist, Mr. Phillips has demonstrated a deep commitment to Canada and what it stands for. In the early 1960s, he received the prestigious National Newspaper Award for a series of articles on the attitude of Quebec towards Confederation. He was also the recipient of the Bowater Award for journalism for a series of articles on the Canadian economy.

In 1984, Mr. Phillips agreed to set aside his distinguished career in journalism to serve as the Minister for Public Affairs in the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C., and from April, 1987 to February, 1990 he served as the Prime Minister's Director of Communications.

[*Translation*]

In February 1990, his appointment as Assistant Privacy Commissioner made it possible for him to embrace with his usual vigour the cause of the individual's right to privacy. Working closely with the Privacy Commissioner, Mr. Phillips made a significant contribution to the study on Drug Testing and Privacy whose findings were tabled in the House last Friday.

[*English*]

Because of his distinguished journalism career, Mr. Phillips brought with him both knowledge of and experience with the delicate and difficult problem of balancing the public's right to know and the individual's right to privacy. He also brought with him the persuasive communication skills and independence of mind of a journalist.

This combination served the first Privacy Commissioner and the interests he advanced extremely well, as his seven year term attests. That they are shared by Mr. Phillips augurs well for the cause of privacy and the challenges which will face him as Privacy Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker: Are there questions or comments? The hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have a question. I notice that the government, through the Minister of Justice, has moved one motion ahead of the other. In the Order Paper for today, Wednesday, June 6, we see that the Minister of Justice's motion approving the appointment of John Grace as Information Commissioner came first. Yet, the minister chose—in her own judgment, or she was coached by