

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, August 11, 1987

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

RECALL OF HOUSE

Mr. Speaker: I wish to inform the House that, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 5, being satisfied, after consultation with the Government, that the public interest required that the House should meet at an earlier time—

[English]

—I caused to be published in an extra edition of the *Canada Gazette* dated August 9, 1987, a notice calling the House to meet this day. In addition, on the same date I sent telegrams and electronic mail to each Member of the House containing the substance of that notice.

[Translation]

I now table a letter from the Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council (Mr. Mazankowski) dated August 7, 1987, concerning that notice.

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[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, as you have indicated, the House has been recalled to deal with legislation containing the widespread abuses in the refugee system, the issue of smuggling, the needed response to our security system, and the whole question of the refugee process.

I would like to indicate to you that there have been discussions with the opposition Parties. A Bill will be introduced later in the proceedings in the name of the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) which would amend the Immigration Act and the Criminal Code to deal with the issue of deterrence and detention. I submit to the House that this is a matter of grave urgency, and they are

strong measures to respond to the developments of the past two weeks.

It was our intention to deal with this issue today. My understanding is that the opposition Parties wish more time to consider this measure, so it will have to be dealt with later in the week. Perhaps they may wish to consider the efficacy of dealing with this measure in Committee of the Whole. We had some discussions yesterday, but perhaps it could be dealt with in Committee of the Whole, providing there could be some clear understanding with regard to the time frame.

I also wish to indicate that Bill C-55 will be the order of business called for today. It dovetails in an integral way with the new Bill that will be introduced. It is broader in scope, and it deals with the whole refugee determination process as well as other things related to it. It provides for a durable, longer term solution to the question of the refugee issue as it affects Canada.

I wish to indicate to the House the urgency of dealing with this matter as well. It is needed soon. Presently we are dealing with a six-month hoist sponsored by the Liberal Party. I would hope that they may reconsider that and attempt to get rid of it.

Mr. Gauthier: Is this a statement on a motion?

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, it is rather amazing in this opening deliberation of an emergency session that the Opposition is so sensitive. I find that rather strange.

Mr. Gauthier: You are making a speech.

Mr. Mazankowski: I am merely trying to outline the order of business. If there are any difficulties with that, perhaps—

Mr. Gauthier: We can read just as well as you can.

Mr. Mazankowski:—perhaps the Member may wish to talk to his House Leader.

Given the urgency of this matter, we may wish to consider extending the hours.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mazankowski: I offer that suggestion in the interest of ensuring an adequate debate on this issue, the new Bill, and Bill C-55.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I rise to indicate—and I wish to do this to some extent in the form of an apology—that we did not hear from the opposition Parties in sufficient time to clearly designate the order of business. The Minister of Employment