

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, February 16, 1966

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

OBJECTIONS RESPECTING PROPOSED DISTRICTS IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND QUEBEC

### ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT ACT

**Mr. Speaker:** It is my duty to inform the house that two objections, signed by the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton (Mr. Fleming) and 11 other hon. members in one case, and the hon. member for Chapleau (Mr. Laprise) and nine other hon. members in the second case, have been filed with me pursuant to section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act.

If the house will agree, I propose that the procedure followed on prior occasions in this session be again followed so that the text of these objections, together with the names of the members who signed in each case, will be printed as appendices to *Votes and Proceedings* for this day. Is it agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

### NATIONAL PARKS

TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN  
PRIME MINISTER AND PREMIER  
OF ALBERTA

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to table the exchange of correspondence between myself and the premier of Alberta on national parks policy, which was requested the other day.

### BANKRUPTCY

TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE

**Hon. Lucien Cardin (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker I should like to table correspondence between myself and members of the special committee who studied the Bankruptcy Act revision.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF NANCY GREENE,  
OUTSTANDING SKIER

**Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, on motions I should like to have the indulgence of the house and draw to the attention of members of the house the presence in the Speaker's gallery of Miss Nancy Greene, a member of Canada's national ski team and an outstanding Canadian.

**Mr. Herridge:** Mr. Speaker, for the information of the house this young lady comes from Rossland which is in Kootenay West.

**Mr. Groos:** That means from British Columbia also.

[Translation]

### CRIMINAL CODE

AMENDMENT TO ABOLISH CORPORAL  
PUNISHMENT

**Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière)** moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-123, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (Corporal Punishment).

**Some hon. Members:** Explain.

**Mr. Choquette:** Mr. Speaker, whereas preventive rather than punitive justice should be emphasized; whereas capital punishment remains the best deterrent to the increase in the number of murders in the present circumstances, punishment of criminals should nevertheless not be characterized by unpardonable barbarity.

The present bill proposes to eliminate the lash provided for in the Criminal Code.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

[English]

AMENDMENT RESPECTING ATTEMPTED  
SUICIDE BY MENTALLY ILL

**Mr. Ian Watson (Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie)** moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-124, to amend the Criminal Code (attempt to commit suicide).

**Some hon. Members:** Explain.

**Mr. Watson (Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie):** Mr. Speaker, I am introducing this bill because section 213 of the Criminal Code now reads that a person who is mentally ill or is undergoing psychiatric treatment who attempts to commit suicide is subject to a criminal accusation and possible conviction. In most cases of attempted suicide the authorities ignore section 213. Occasionally, however, as happened recently in my own riding, a crown prosecutor becomes overzealous and applies section 213.

The amendment as proposed would have, it is hoped, two effects. It would remove the stigma of a criminal conviction attached to the attempted suicide of a mentally ill person; it would protect the public, and would protect the person who attempted the suicide