

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, May 26, 1988

The House met at 11 a.m.

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*Prayers*


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● (1110)

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

## SUPREME COURT ACT

## MEASURE TO AMEND

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-291, an Act to amend the Supreme Court Act (references by a Lieutenant-Governor in Council).

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall the Hon. Member have leave to introduce the Bill?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Kaplan:** Mr. Speaker, this is an amendment to the Supreme Court Act in an important respect. The Act now provides for references to the Supreme Court of Canada for interpretation of Bills, but under the Act they can only be made by the federal Government.

The purpose of the amendment is to open the door so that provincial Governments can also refer questions to the Supreme Court of Canada. After all, if the Supreme Court is the arbiter between the two levels of government, both levels should have equal access to it. This is extremely relevant these days, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that the Bill will commend itself to all Members.

**Mr. Speaker:** I suppose we can say we certainly received the message.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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

## PETITIONS

## SUPPORT FOR BILL C-51

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by a number of constituents from the riding of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell and from the riding of Stormont—Dundas.

These Canadians ask that the Government move ahead expeditiously with Bill C-51, which is aimed at reducing the number of Canadians who die from cigarette smoking.

## OTTAWA-MONTREAL CN LINE

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, I have another petition signed by a number of constituents, again from the great riding of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell.

These constituents are protesting plans by the Canadian National Railway to shut down the Montreal to Ottawa rail line through my constituency. They ask the House of Commons to protest, in order to ensure that this rail line which the Government and CN want to shut down remains open for the benefit of the citizens of the great riding of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell.

I totally support their petition.

## PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN

**Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, I have the duty and honour to present a petition on behalf of approximately 3,100 people from the lower mainland of British Columbia.

The petitioners are asking this House to protect the rights of the unborn through appropriate legislation.

## NORTHERN TAX ALLOWANCE

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Madam Speaker, I have two petitions to present this morning. The first one, pursuant to Standing Order 106, has been certified correct as to form and content by the Clerk of Petitions.

It deals with the concern of residents of the community of Atikokan in my riding because they have been left off the eligibility list for the northern residents' tax deduction. They point out that many of the communities left off the list, like theirs, share identical environments. Because they are northern isolated communities they pay increased costs for food, fuel,