

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, December 15, 1987

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the Government's response to Petitions Nos. 332-3314, 332-3321 to 332-3324 inclusive, 332-3328, 332-3335 and 332-3336.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

PRESENTATION OF FOURTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. William C. Winegard (Guelph): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the fourth report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade.

The report has a common introduction, a common background section, a very large section concerning the witnesses whom we heard and the broad spectrum of opinion, and a relatively short common ground section. Then there are three reports: A majority view, a minority view of the Liberal Party, and a minority view of the New Democratic Party. I believe it represents the spectrum of opinion that is in the country and perhaps in this House.

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)): Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions

between the Parties. I think you will find there is unanimous agreement for the following motion to be put to the House immediately. I move:

That, on Wednesday, December 16, 1987, at 4.30 p.m., the Speaker shall interrupt any proceeding then under way and the House shall revert to the routine proceeding of "Statements by Ministers" for a statement by the Minister of Finance;

And, that following replies to such statement and any related tabling by the Minister, the House shall resume consideration of the proceeding which had been interrupted by the Speaker;

And, that the Speaker shall adjourn the House at the ordinary hour of daily adjournment.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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PETITIONS

PROPOSED FREE TRADE

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege, indeed, honour, to present a petition on behalf of a number of westerners who indicate that the Conservative Government has no mandate from the Canadian people to conclude a free trade agreement with the United States and are concerned that the proposed trade agreement would deny Canada the policy freedom to determine its own economic future and will undermine our ability to build a society distinct from that of the United States.

They point out that the agreement denies Canadians the secure access to the United States market which was the key objective in these negotiations, but threatens the loss of hundreds of thousands of Canadian jobs.

Therefore, they are calling upon Parliament to dissolve and allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement during a national general election.

● (1110)

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by a number of citizens of Thunder Bay and Schreiber, Ontario.