Government Orders

I ask that the other Notices of Motions for the Production of Papers be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Shall the remaining Notices of Motions for the Production of Papers be allowed to stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions of which you are not aware. As you will notice on the Order Paper, the first order of the day is Bill C–88. The opposition parties, at least the one which I represent, would like to give their consent to that bill being passed as soon as possible, so that we can get to the adjournment motion. Therefore, we will have only one speaker who will be very brief on Bill C–88.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, I need to ask the House a specific question because on this particular bill there are two ways we can move: one is that the government could move at the report stage an amendment which would, therefore, require the consent of the House for us to proceed to third reading.

Perhaps I can ask the question. I am not sure that I am in order, but I would like to ask the question of the House whether or not there would be consent for us to deal with this technical amendment at report stage and then go to third reading.

Some hon. members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): There is no consent.

Mr. Cooper: On a point of order, I therefore want to indicate that the government will not be proceeding with the amendment at report stage. We will call for concurrence and third reading of this bill.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C–88, an act to provide for the membership of Canada in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Develop-

ment as reported (with an amendment) from a legislative committee.

Hon. Charles Mayer (for the Minister of Finance) moved that the bill be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

● (1630)

Hon. Charles Mayer (for Minister of Finance) moved that the bill be read the third time and passed.

Mr. Dave Worthy (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Privatization and Regulatory Affairs) and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to speak briefly to the bill today.

It is a bill I am proud to introduce because it is going to enable Canada to assist the people and the countries of eastern Europe in their reconstruction and their development. It is a bill that required co–operation from all members of the House that were on the committee dealing with it. Although we did hear some very credible witnesses, it was processed in a very proper and quick manner. I want to thank all members of that committee who co–operated with us in this endeavour. I think all parties in the House will be supporting this bill.

What is so important to us in Canada, and something which many people forget, is that so many of our ancestors have come from Europe. More than 15 per cent of Canadians can trace their ancestors back to eastern Europe. Probably more than most other Canadians, they recognize that eastern Europe is not a block, although there is a bloc of countries, and each of those countries is unique. Each of them is different than the other and each has problems that are unique.

In trying to address the problems that we all know that these countries have, the need has been recognized of the establishment of a bank to deal strictly with the countries of eastern Europe. This bank will be able to specialize in the needs of the people of these countries, along with the needs of their businesses and the needs of their governments. As well, in co–operation with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, it should try to assist governments in particular and businesses in these countries to get established and hopefully to prosper.

Their prosperity is important, not only to the countries of eastern Europe, but to all countries around the world and especially to Canada. In our trading relationships of the future, we will look with great hope to the emerging-