Order Paper Questions

AMENDMENTS TO BILL C-55

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106 I would like to table in the House of Commons two petitions on two different issues.

The first issue is with regard to the legislation currently before the House, namely, Bill C-55, the refugee determination Bill. I have a petition signed by residents of Vancouver, Richmond, Thunder Bay, Mississauga, Etobicoke, Brampton, Bramalea and Toronto. All these petitioners are asking the Government to delete the safe country clause and the prescreening stage and to upgrade the refugee appeal mechanism so that we may have a refugee determination system which is accessible, fair, and expedient and will discourage those who wish to abuse our system and do an end run around our regulations.

• (1110)

$\begin{array}{c} {\tt CONSTITUTIONAL\ ACCORD-RECOGNITION\ OF} \\ {\tt MULTICULTURALISM} \end{array}$

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, the final three petitions come from residents living in the Cities of Burnaby, Vancouver, London, Peterborough, and from my own riding of York West. These petitioners are asking the Government to amend the current Meech Lake Accord in order to incorporate and entrench in the opening clause one fundamental character of Canada, which is Canada's multicultural heritage, as a reality in this country that should be alongside the English-French linguistic duality in defining who Canadians are and what this country is about.

REQUEST FOR MORATORIUM ON AUTOMATION OF LIGHTHOUSES

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and privilege to present a petition concerning the Government's proposal to automate light stations on the coast of British Columbia. The residents who signed the petition are concerned that the Leblond report was totally biased and did not reflect the need for public safety.

They ask the Government to impose a moratorium on any action by the Coast Guard in destaffing the light stations and that light station keepers be equipped and trained to do an even more effective job on public information and public safety.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions on the Order Paper be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall all questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 29

SUSPENSION OF FREE TRADE TALKS

Mr. Speaker: I want to bring to the attention of the House that again I have received an application under Standing Order 29 with respect to the granting of an emergency debate relating to the trade talks. I recognize the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier).

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you allow me to move a motion at the appropriate time so that the House can deal with a very important matter. We know that the deadline on the free trade issues is October 5. I suggest that you might want to use your judgment and protect the minority interest in the House and, of course, in the interest of the greater understanding of the issues, allow this debate to take place tonight.

I hope you would see the urgency of that request. Indeed, you have asked the Government to use whatever tools it has at its disposal to allow for this debate. The Government has not been forthcoming to date as far as I know, and there is one day left for debate. I hope we could have your consent to have this emergency debate tonight.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier for bringing this matter to the Chair's attention. As I have said repeatedly for some days now, the Chair views it as an extremely important matter. As yet, however, it has not been the disposition of the Chair to order an emergency debate.

I say again to the Hon. Member that that does not preclude the Chair from having a different view at a different time. For today, however, it is not the disposition of the Chair to order an emergency debate for tonight. I repeat that the Chair knows that it is an important matter.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

THE CONSTITUTION ACT, 1867

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, 1987

The House resumed from Wednesday, September 30, consideration of the motion of Mr. Hantyshyn:

WHEREAS the Constitution Act, 1982 came into force on April 17, 1982, following an agreement between Canada and all the provinces except Quebec;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Quebec has established a set of five proposals for constitutional change and has stated that amendments to give effect to those proposals would enable Quebec to resume a full role in the constitutional councils of Canada: