

Government Orders

by the government in respect of the appointment of the commission to look into the matters affecting the electoral law of Canada.

During our break in November, we came back to find that the Prime Minister had named a commission without any consultation, either as to the members of the commission or as to its terms of reference. We had had in an undertaking by the Deputy Prime Minister by way of a statement in answer to a question in this House that he would, in fact, consult with the members on this side of the House.

I regret very much that that consultation did not take place and I am sure that my friends in the New Democratic Party share my concern. Here we are co-operating with the government in expediting passage of a bill today and I wish we had had the same co-operation with respect to the appointment of that commission. I just wanted to make that point. Otherwise, we support this bill fully.

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I just wish to re-emphasize the point made by my Liberal colleague. We are also concerned, certainly not with the calibre of the person representing the New Democratic Party, but the process that was followed was inadequate. It shows a lack of real commitment to the parliamentary dialogue and consultations by this government.

With regard to the bill in front of us, we have agreed to the quick passage of this legislation after we were reassured by officials of Elections Canada and the department that this, in no way, would prevent people who did not live in an area where there was the by-election from seeking election. There was some concern over the actual wording and the meaning, but I believe all those concerns have been dealt with and that people who wish to run in the Chambly by-election or other by-elections that will be called in the next six months, once the Prime Minister calls it, that those people, all Canadian citizens who are electors will be able to seek election.

• (1410)

Motion agreed to, Bill read the third time and passed.

CANADIAN SPACE AGENCY

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. Gerry Weiner (for Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology) moved that Bill C-16, an act to establish the Canadian Space Agency and to provide for other matters in relation to space, be read the third time and passed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: On division.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Agreed to on division.

Motion agreed to, bill read the third time and passed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Parliamentary Secretary to the House Leader.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, that completes the legislation which the government had on the Order Paper for today. I would ask at this time that we suspend the House to the call of the Chair so that we may later in the afternoon receive Royal Assent.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the government on its co-operation today and, as usual, the opposition is always available to co-operate with this government when it wants to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is there agreement to suspend? The hon. member for Churchill.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, we are agreeable to this with the understanding that the motion standing in the name of the hon. member for Essex—Windsor would be just dropped to the bottom of the Order Paper to be dealt with at a future time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I have received written notice from the hon. member for Prince Albert—Churchill River that he is unable to move his motion during the hour for Private Members' Business on Monday, December 18, 1989.