

Bill reported.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): When shall the Bill be read the third time? By leave, now?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Hnatyshyn moved that Bill C-94, an Act to bring into force the *Revised Statutes of Canada, 1985*, be read the third time and passed.

He said: Madam Speaker, I will be brief.

I just want to thank Hon. Members for their co-operation with respect to Bill C-94. This co-operation had been indicated during the course of debate on the floor of the House and in committee, and has been extended by Members of Parliament and members of the Standing Committee on Justice and Solicitor General who were good enough to receive the proposed *Revised Statutes* and give them their consideration under the new provision of law, the Law Revision Act, 1974, with dispatch. This allows us to meet the deadline of having the Bill passed in the House of Commons and in the other place before Christmas, thereby meeting the deadline required in order to have the statutes as of December 31, 1984 published as the *Revised Statutes of Canada*.

There is one point which was raised during the course of committee of the whole as to the number of volumes of the *Revised Statutes*. A number of *Revised Statutes of Canada* will be published. I do not have that information now but I will ensure that the Hon. Member for Ottawa Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) receives that figure as soon as I am able to ascertain it from the Department. I know it will be making provision to meet reasonable demand. Not only on the basis of those which are obligatory, of course, but also on the basis of experience, they will have sufficient numbers of statutes printed. Virtually every law firm in the country will require a new copy and there are a number of other agencies which will want to have copies available to them, in addition to those required to be given sets by statute.

In conclusion, I would say that this is a very large task that is undertaken from time to time. The reality is that we are passing more laws in our country. There is more legislation involved. I believe it is a sign of the times. It is something that one occasionally reflects upon, whether or not we need all the laws that are in fact dealt with in the House. Perhaps some of these provisions could be dealt with in other ways. However, the fact is there has been an evolution, as I tried to indicate by giving some of the statistics as to the number of statutes passed each year over the course of the last few years. We see this as not diminishing. In fact, it is increasing. Society is more complex and perhaps that is something we cannot avoid. On the other hand, I think we in this Chamber are all devoted to

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the principle that quality of law is more important than quantity.

As I indicated in my opening remarks, this process of *Revised Statutes* will assist with a very important element for Canadians, that is, the accessibility of the law to the average citizen. The Hon. Member for Western Arctic (Mr. Nickerson) pointed out that sometimes people in remote areas have difficulty getting access to the statutes, not only of the country but of the provinces, and ordinances of the territories. There is a legal axiom that a citizen of our country is deemed to know the law. Therefore, I think it is incumbent upon us to do what we can in terms of various programs, and I am proud, certainly during the time I have been Minister, that we have given a high priority to programs involving public legal education. We have taken the step during the time I have been Minister to get the *Revised Statutes* in place, and to give the French text a new and more meaningful presence in terms of Canadian law.

For the spirit of co-operation shown today, I thank Hon. Members, and I pledge to them that I, as Minister of Justice, will do those things which will assist in the accessibility of the law and the understandability which was referred to by the Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan). These are matters that are important, and I share the enthusiasm of all Members to get this matter through before the lunch hour.

• (1220)

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to rise on third reading to indicate my appreciation of the Minister's kind remarks about myself. This is an important matter. It is not his only achievement, as I might have implied in an earlier comment that I made, but it is an important achievement. I look forward to March when Canadians can see the result of our work here, and when they will receive their copies of the *Revised Statutes of Canada*, with all the improvements that we have already discussed.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Yes!

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The question is on the following motion: Mr. Hnatyshyn, seconded by Mrs. MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands), moved that Bill C-94, an Act to bring into force the *Revised Statutes of Canada, 1985*, be read the third time and do pass.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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