

Judges Act

hands. I would submit that in light of the Free Trade Agreement, that potential exists.

It is also important to recognize the philosophical direction the Government has taken. It has continued its mindless following of the corporate agenda, to try to pare down the size of Government, to try to privatize all the Crown corporations that have been developed through the risks taken in the public sector using taxpayers' money. The Government is willing to throw that away because of pressures brought on by the corporate agenda. It is a mistake, in light of the importance of this industry to the future of Canada and the future of technological evolution, to lose control of those industries.

In light of those arguments, I would like to conclude by saying that I cannot over-stress the importance of maintaining that control. I cannot over-stress my feeling and that of my colleagues on this side of the House about the dangers of privatizing these companies, particularly in light of the Free Trade Agreement. I believe it is a serious error. I maintain that these are two profitable companies that demonstrate amply that a public utility or a Crown corporation, if run properly with good management, can become profitable. Why throw it out? If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those opposed to the motion will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): In my opinion, the yeas have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Call in the Members.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am sure that if you were to ask the question of the House, you would find that there would be an agreement to defer the vote to six o'clock along with the other votes.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Agreed and so ordered.

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JUDGES ACT**MEASURE TO AMEND**

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada) moved that Bill C-30, an Act to amend the Judges Act, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. We have had consultations with the other Parties, and I believe that you will find that there would be consent to refer this Bill to the Committee of the Whole House rather than to a legislative committee so that we could complete all stages this afternoon.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Agreed and so ordered. Accordingly, the Bill stands referred to a Committee of the Whole House.

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to put some facts on the record with respect to Bill C-30, an Act to amend the Judges Act. Hon. Members will know that with respect to the number of provincial governments and appointments to the bench, there is a need from time to time to increase the size of the Superior and County Courts in all the provinces. Over the past few years, the demands on the court system have increased significantly. The workload of federally appointed judges across Canada has reflected this increased demand, and for this reason, we are appearing today with this Bill to try to adjust the number of possible appointments to take care of that demand.