

*Routine Proceedings***ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT ACT**

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. Jacques Tétreault (Laval-des-Rapides) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-311 intituled "An Act to change the name of the electoral district of Laval-des-Rapides".

Mr. Speaker: Shall the hon. member have leave to introduce the bill?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Tétreault: With the leave of the House, Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce a bill to change the name of the electoral district of Laval-des-Rapides to Laval Centre, in order to better represent the communities in that riding. In fact, my riding extends from the rivière des Prairies in the South, to the rivière des Milles-Îles in the North, through Laval-Centre and takes in the areas formerly occupied by the towns of Laval-des-Rapides, Renaud, Vimont, Auteuil, as well as Sainte-Rose which is celebrating this year its 250th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Speaker: When shall the bill be read the second time? At the next sitting of the House?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

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• (1520)

[English]

ORDER IN COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT OF PRIVACY COMMISSIONER

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada) moved:

That, in accordance with subsection 53(1) of the Act to extend the present laws of Canada that protect the privacy of individuals and that provide individuals with a right of access to personal information about themselves, Chapter P-21 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1985, this House approves the appointment of Bruce Phillips as Privacy Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. One of the important elements of parliamentary reform in this House some time ago was the opportunity for the appropriate parliamentary committee to consider proposed government appointments, to interview and scrutinize with care the qualifications of the proposed appointee and then to report back to the House.

The procedure which the minister is following in this particular case, while it may be strictly legal according to the provisions of the act, clearly flies in the face of the intent of Parliament in allowing parliamentary committees to conduct this form of scrutiny.

I want to raise this point of order and ask whether the minister might be prepared to refer this matter to the Standing Committee on Justice and the Solicitor General in order that we might conduct the kind of careful scrutiny that is required before an appointment of this nature is made.

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I want to make exactly the same point of order. I think of all the appointments that one can imagine, the appointment of a Privacy Commissioner is one in which the government should have made the greatest possible effort to obtain agreement among all parties about the choice of a candidate. To my knowledge, there was no consultation at all about this appointment, at least not in the form of trying to find someone who would be acceptable to all parties. We know there are many, many Canadians, even for this difficult position, who would have been acceptable to all members of the House.

I would ask the minister, as my colleague from the NDP has done, before proceeding to enforce strictly the rules of the House, to consider referring this nomination to a committee and the choice of the justice and solicitor general committee is an excellent choice before the appointment becomes final. It may well be that the minister herself will find that process useful in making her own decision about the correctness of what it is she is proceeding to do for the first time, I believe, as Minister of Justice.