

*Routine Proceedings*

Half of these are overdue and in many cases should have been repaid long ago.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** You are just tabling a report. I am sorry, I will allow the hon. member to bring it up to the table.

**Mr. Hopkins:** Mr. Speaker, if I may on a point of privilege, it is normal when tabling a public accounts report to give an explanation of that report.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Yes, I agree, and the hon. member who has been here for a long time realizes that, and I realize that. But, it should be a short report.

**Mr. Hopkins:** Mr. Speaker, I will abide by your ruling, but the records will show differently.

In these times of fiscal restraint and high deficits, the annual interest cost alone in these overdue advances may amount to \$1.5 million. This is a burden that taxpayers should not have to carry.

The real problem is a lack of professional standards in its accounting operation within the department, and the department must ensure that these standards are achieved and maintained in all areas of financial management and control.

The committee has asked for an early response for the department by January 31, 1991 and has asked the Auditor General to assess this response on behalf of the public accounts committee.

*[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]*

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**BANK ACT**

## MEASURE TO AMEND

**Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance))** moved for leave to introduce an act entitled an act respecting banks and banking.

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

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**An hon. member:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** On division? Agreed on division.

**Mr. Loiselle** moved that the bill be read the first time and printed.

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

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**An hon. member:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Carried on division.

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

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Masse:** Mr. Speaker, although normally 48 hours' notice is required, I wish to ask the unanimous consent of the House to table a bill for first reading.

*[English]*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is there unanimous consent?

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Lapierre:** Mr. Speaker—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The hon. member for Shefford.

**Mr. Lapierre:** I realize the minister wishes to table a bill, but I wish he would specify which bill before asking for our consent.

**Mr. Masse:** I don't know what the exact procedure is, but in any case, this bill—

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*[English]*

**STATUS OF THE ARTIST ACT**

## MEASURE TO ENACT

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-96, an act respecting the status of artists and professional relations between artists and producers in Canada.

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