

*Routine Proceedings*

## HOUSE MANAGEMENT

[Translation]

CONCURRENCE IN 21ST REPORT OF STANDING  
COMMITTEE

**Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, if the House gives its consent, I move that the 21st report of the Standing Committee on House Management, presented to the House earlier this day, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

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## THE CONSTITUTION

## SPECIAL DEBATE

**Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions among the various parties and members of the House respecting a special debate process regarding the Constitution.

I believe you will find consent for the following motion:

That notwithstanding any Standing Order of this House, on February 6, 10, 11 and 13, 1992, upon the completion of the adjournment debate, or at the ordinary hour of daily adjournment if no adjournment debate is held, the House will continue to sit until 10 p.m. for the sole purpose of allowing members to make presentations on the results of discussions they have had with their constituents on the constitutional issue;

That, for the purposes of this special debate, the question before the House shall be "That this House do now adjourn";

That no member be permitted to speak more than once under the provisions of this order and for a period not to exceed 10 minutes; that members be permitted to table any document which supports their verbal presentation; and that all such presentations and documents be deemed referred to the Standing Joint Committee on the Government of Canada's proposals for a renewed Canada;

That, under the provisions of this order, the Speaker not entertain any dilatory motions or quorum calls; and

That under the provisions of this order, when no member rises to speak, but no later than 10 p.m., the Speaker shall adjourn the House until the next sitting day.

**Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity to read and to hear the motion that was put forward. We are of course totally in favour of having members of this House make their views known on the subject of the Constitution. I simply want to submit this to you, Mr. Speaker. Every evening there should be at least two spots for members of the Bloc Quebecois and the independent members to make their comments before this House since we were not allowed to sit on the special joint committee. You could also benefit from our experience. With that in mind, we would be very happy to give unanimous consent, provided of course we are guaranteed full participation in the debate, which we were denied in the special joint committee.

• (1530)

[English]

**Mr. Cooper:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his indication of consent. It is difficult for me to assure him a guaranteed two spots per evening, but I do want to indicate to him very clearly that we will co-operate in every way to make sure that they have a full opportunity to participate and if in fact on one of the evenings there are four or five slots, they are welcome to take those as well.

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I would gladly give our consent to the motion, but I have just a point of clarification to the parliamentary secretary of the government House leader.

In terms of the tabling of documents, they were deemed to have been referred to the Standing Joint Committee on the Government of Canada's Proposals for a Renewed Canada. I presuppose that after the tabling of those documents there will be the appropriate indexing of those documents so that if constituents or others wish to find out in fact where their documents have been, they will be cross-referenced appropriately under the joint standing committee. Is that correct?

**Mr. Cooper:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for raising that point because it is a very important and valid one.