

THE SENATE

Tuesday, July 12, 1988

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.
Prayers.

[Translation]

EMERGENCIES BILL

MESSAGE FROM COMMONS

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons to acquaint the Senate that they had agreed, without further amendments, to the amendments made by the Senate to Bill C-77, to authorize the taking of special temporary measures to ensure safety and security during national emergencies and to amend other Acts in consequence thereof.

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT NARCOTIC CONTROL ACT

BILL TO AMEND—FIRST READING

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-61, to amend the Criminal Code, the Food and Drugs Act and the Narcotic Control Act.

Bill read first time.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the second time?

Hon. Nathan Nurgitz: Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 44(1)(f), I move that this bill be read the second time later this day.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is leave granted, honourable senators?

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, with respect to the question of leave on these bills—and I say “these bills” because I hope the Senate will give me leave to mention that there are, in all, coming from the House of Commons today, Bill C-61, Bill C-124, Bill C-75 and Bill C-58. The Deputy Leader of the Government and I discussed the anticipated legislative program for this week and we understand—although not officially—that the House of Commons will be sending us a fair amount of legislation this week and that the house leaders in the other place are attempting to complete their work on the other side before adjournment, either this week or early next week.

That, of course, will mean the adoption in the other place of quite a lengthy and important menu of legislation, and we in the Senate will try to deal with and have ready for Royal Assent as much of that menu as it is reasonable to expect from

us. However, I believe that the Deputy Leader of the Government and I are agreed that it is impossible for us to have the total program ready for Royal Assent or otherwise dealt with in such a short time. Therefore, he and I have agreed that this week we will try to abridge the time for debate to see if we can at least help the government with legislation that—famous last words!—is non-controversial.

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, Senator Frith is quite correct. We did have a discussion this morning. It is our hope to move along as much of this legislation as we reasonably can. I agree that some bills are perhaps more controversial than they appeared to be at the beginning—

Senator Frith: And more meaty!

Senator Doody: —but that will evolve as we go along. Therefore, without making any major commitment on either side at this point, it is our hope to move the legislative program that we now have before us fairly quickly, and as additional legislation comes up from the other place we will look at it and judge it on its merits.

At this point I can see no reason why we cannot hope for a speedy disposition of the legislation before us, and I hope that everything else that comes up can be treated equally quickly.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is leave granted, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Motion agreed to and bill placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading later this day.

[Translation]

CANADA LABOUR CODE

BILL TO AMEND—FIRST READING

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-124, an Act to amend the Canada Labour Code.

Bill read first time.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the second time?

On motion of Senator Doody, notwithstanding rule 44(1)(f), bill placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading later this day.