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Tuesday, September 26, 2006

—
Chair

Mr. James Rajotte

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•(1535)

[English]

The Clerk of the Committee (Mr. James M. Latimer): Honourable members of the committee, I see a quorum.

Pursuant to Standing Order 106(2), your first order of business is to elect a chair. I'm ready to receive motions to that effect.

Yes, Mr. Carrie.

Mr. Colin Carrie (Oshawa, CPC): I move that we nominate Mr. Rajotte.

The Clerk: Mr. Carrie has moved that Mr. Rajotte be the chair of the committee.

Are there any other motions?

Hon. Dan McTeague (Pickering—Scarborough East, Lib.): Yes, there is one for a free dinner. I'm going to hold him to it because he's gone back on a campaign promise.

The Clerk: I take it that's not another motion. The committee has heard the terms of the motion.

[Translation]

Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

(Motion agreed to)

[English]

The Clerk: I declare Mr. Rajotte duly elected chair.

Before I invite the chair to take the chair, we will proceed to the election of the vice-chairs.

The first vice-chair must be a member of the official opposition. I'm ready to receive motions to that effect.

Yes, Mr. Lapierre.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Outremont, Lib.): I nominate Mr. McTeague.

The Clerk: Mr. Lapierre moves that Mr. McTeague be elected first vice-chair for the official opposition.

Are there any other motions?

[English]

Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

(Motion agreed to)

The Clerk: The second vice-chair comes from a party in opposition other than the official opposition.

[Translation]

Mr. Robert Vincent (Shefford, BQ): I nominate Paul Crête.

The Clerk: Mr. Vincent moves that Mr. Crête be elected second vice-chair.

Are there any other motions?

[English]

Mr. Colin Carrie: I second that.

The Clerk: Are there other motions? Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

(Motion agreed to)

[Translation]

The Clerk: I declare Mr. Crête duly elected second vice-chair.

[English]

I would then invite the duly elected chair, Mr. Rajotte, to take the chair.

The Chair (Mr. James Rajotte (Edmonton—Leduc, CPC)): Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

There are a few announcements I want to make.

First of all, congratulations to the two vice-chairs. They performed that function, I think, very well in the past, so I look forward to working with them again.

I want to welcome everyone back. I especially want to give a special welcome and congratulations to Mr. McTeague; he and his wife had twins on August 18. I just want to mention, Mr. McTeague, that's a day before my birthday, so we know they'll be two good Conservatives. All good Leos are good Conservatives.

I also want to mention as well that we have lost Joe Fontana. Joe Fontana has stepped down to run for mayor of London. I say in a non-partisan way that I will miss Joe. I like Joe a lot. I had a lot of respect for him. I thought he was a very hard-working member and certainly had a lot of interest in issues like science, research and development, which I think we should continue on with.

I want to welcome Susan Kadis. Susan is a new member to the committee, so we should all welcome her. It's a very exciting committee, a good committee that works very well together, generally. We look forward to having you on the committee, Susan.

We also have a new clerk, James Latimer, and we should welcome him to the committee as well. He's had a couple of meetings already. He's very efficient, and he keeps me on top of things, so we look forward to his serving us.

I'm told—and the clerk can mention this—that I actually do not have authority to have an agenda unless I have the will of the committee. I would actually like us—and I think I've spoken to a number of you informally—to have a meeting on future business. In order to do so, I need unanimous consent.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Paul Crête (Montmagny—L'Islet—Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup, BQ): We can meet for one hour, but no longer.

[*English*]

The Chair: We will, then, suspend for two or three minutes and we'll go in camera to discuss future business. I think the clerk has an agenda. We'll suspend for two minutes. The clerk will hand out the agenda, and then we'll go right into future business.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Paul Crête: Who are the two new analysts?

[*English*]

The Chair: We have the same excellent researchers we've had for a number of years.

[*Proceedings continue in camera*]

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