

*Business of the House*

ness, which recommendation was repeated by the eminent survey of the Task Force on Government Information carried out by Tom Ford and other notables, in 1969. They both recommended that patronage should be kept out of advertising. Could the Acting Prime Minister, the government House leader, with his vast knowledge of government apparatus, tell this House now which one of the six recommendations of the task force report on advertising contracts has been implemented by this government?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot recall specifically the six particular principles that are included in that report, but the hon. gentleman does know that it is very difficult to ask for tenders on advertising, and one must make a selection of advertising agencies. While I am quite sure that whatever government is in office tends to favour those who are friendly to it, nevertheless, I believe this government in its dealings with advertising agencies has received very good value for its money.

**An hon. Member:** And vice versa.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, I am the first to appreciate political realities and that you help your friends sometimes ahead of those you do not know, but does the Acting Prime Minister not believe, or can he not say to this House that when it comes to the national police force, the RCMP, that body should be beyond any taint or suspicion of petty political patronage, and that in respect of any contract of any size the agency should be awarded the contract on a free and open tender basis?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, it is very seldom I can answer with an unqualified yes to a question. In this case, yes, I believe that is so. The RCMP is and should be beyond any political taint.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Why wasn't there a tender then?

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

## VETERANS AFFAIRS

Sixth report of Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, in both official languages—Mr. Boulanger.

[Editor's note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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[English]

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

## WEEKLY STATEMENT

**Mr. Baldwin:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the government House leader about the business for the rest of this week and next week. Can he advise the House at this time whether in addition to the eight opposition days

[Mr. Nowlan.]

next month he will be setting aside time for the budget debate?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, the program I would put before the House is as follows. Today, of course, is one of the allotted days, and tomorrow is another. I hope the opposition House leader will give me some indication soon of the item he intends to call tomorrow, or whether there is to be a motion of any kind. Also, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week I would designate as allotted days.

On Monday I will ask the House to resume consideration of Bill C-58 in respect of *Time* and *Reader's Digest*. After the allotted days, on Thursday I should like to call the bill on the status of women, Bill C-16. If by any chance we dispose of any of those items during a day, I have in reserve Bill C-57, and Bill C-37 on ocean dumping.

● (1500)

**Mr. Hees:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker, on the question of House business. Since the Minister of Finance announced at the beginning of this week that he would be announcing the date of his budget by the end of the week, and since that time is almost upon us, has he that announcement now? Is it June 23, as announced in an Ottawa newspaper this afternoon?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, it is not the end of the week yet.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the government House leader in respect of House business? It has been indicated several times that a bill in the name of the Minister of National Health and Welfare to amend the Old Age Security Act would be presented and dealt with in time so that some of its provisions could be in effect by October. In view of the fact there is talk about the House recessing for the summer, and since that makes it necessary for this bill to be dealt with and passed by the end of June, could we have a firm assurance as to when we will see this legislation?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, it has now been approved by cabinet and I intend putting it on the order paper immediately.

**Mr. Horner:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I should like to draw to your attention and the attention of the House the fact that members of your staff acquitted themselves very admirably last evening in a ball game on the Hill, defeating the fourth estate in spite of the fact that they still have their winter uniforms and had to play under that handicap.

**Mr. Speaker:** In response to the latter part of the hon. member's point of order, may I say I have been waiting for some time for an opportunity to mention that one step I have taken rather unilaterally, and which I now report to hon. members, is that the constables who so very dutifully serve all of us in the House of Commons will, in a matter of very few days, be attired in appropriate summer uniforms.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!