

maybe we can short circuit the matter and proceed immediately to the President of the Privy Council.

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### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Mr. Pinard:** I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member at this stage, but I think it is important for my colleagues across the floor to know in advance what the business of the House will be for Thursday of this week.

The business for this Thursday will be an allotted day, upon the request of the Conservative Party. If we give notice of the resolution on the Constitution tomorrow—and I hope we will be in a position to do so—then Friday will be the first day of debate on the Constitution. We will know for sure tomorrow. At this point I am in a position to confirm that Thursday will be an allotted day.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I thank the government House leader for that advice. I should point out to the hon. member, as I am sure he will readily agree, that when I suggested November 19 for an allotted day, that was before we knew that the budget would be introduced on November 12 and that we would be debating the budget. I find it rather surprising that we would not continue with the remaining two days of the budget debate. Is there a reason we will not do that, as opposed to proceeding to an allotted day and interrupting the budget debate at a stage when it only requires two days to complete it?

**Mr. Pinard:** The explanation is very simple: the last two days of debate on the budget can be postponed until one or two days after December 10. I still have three supply days to allot before December 10. Because of the time restraint I have to allot a day very soon, and I am now doing that. November 19 was the date suggested by my hon. colleague. I understand his suggestion was made a long time ago, but I thought he would welcome this opportunity, since Thursday is a long day and all the Conservative members will be present this week when we have so many non-confidence votes. So I still designate Thursday as an allotted day and I am sure it pleases my hon. friend.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### THE BUDGET

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. MacEachen that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government, and the amendment of Mr. Wilson (p. 12752).

**Mr. Thacker:** Mr. Speaker, will the minister permit one short question with regard to his speech?

### Adjournment Motion

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Is there unanimous consent for the hon. member to pose the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Thacker:** This concerns an issue that is current around the country affecting many Canadians, particularly students, namely, whether or not the government, as a matter of policy, is considering or actively planning a move into the voucher system where government payments would be made directly to students, who would then choose the university they wished to attend. Will the minister clarify for the House what the government policy is with regard to that at this point in time?

**Mr. Regan:** I thank the hon. member for Lethbridge-Foothills (Mr. Thacker), who has always shown a very keen and sincere interest in post-secondary education, for his pertinent question.

The voucher system is something that has been suggested by a number of groups, individuals and institutions. It has been examined throughout the country. At the present time it is not part of government policy to use the voucher system. I think that it is one of the options that should be examined in the course of the oncoming negotiations between the provinces and the federal government. But I do not think it is a panacea of answers to the problems which exist. From the point of view of all hon. members of the House who would desire that a student recognize what percentage of the funds for his or her education comes from the national taxes of the Government of Canada, it would achieve that.

● (1640)

On the other hand, there are some downsides to it. There is a problem where institutions might almost be bidding against each other for students who carry around such a value to their coffers in their person by way of vouchers. I would say today that there are circumstances which should be examined to see whether it is capable of being improved to overcome the downsides which seem to exist. I have not taken any policy position in favour of or against the voucher system at this point.

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

### SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis)—Housing—Guidelines used by officials contacting home owners on mortgage renewals. (b) Advice given by officials. (c) Request that minister make statement on motions; the