

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member for Champlain raised the question of privilege concerning his disagreement with the Solicitor General (Mr. Fox) about questions and answers during the question period. In any case, it is certainly a matter of debate but not a question of privilege. Finally, the hon. member did not move any motion. Consequently, as far as the Chair is concerned, nothing can be done in the circumstances.

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[English]

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

### WEEKLY STATEMENT

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order with regard to the usual business question. I must preface it with an expression of regret that the President of the Treasury Board did not, as I requested, stay to make a statement on the very important program he is announcing. I presume he had an appointment in the Press Building which was unavoidable even for parliament.

I wish to ask the deputy government House leader to confirm what he intends to call for today and tomorrow. There have been certain discussions with respect to the business for Monday and Tuesday, when it is contemplated there will be a debate on external affairs. I think this will be a very important debate and one which will capture the attention of the country. Is the hon. member in a position to inform us when the motion will be put down, and in what terms it is likely to be? Would he also consider setting down the motion for the adjournment in accordance with the discussions which have taken place, so that we might dispose of it and carry on with the important debate to which I have referred?

● (1512)

**Mr. Cafik:** The first priority, and the business which will be called today, is Bill C-5, the report stage and third reading of the Canada Elections Act. We would like that bill disposed of in all its stages before introducing anything else. If Bill C-5 is disposed of before tomorrow evening, we would call Bill C-7, to amend the Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act. After that, it is planned that Monday and Tuesday will be set aside for a special debate on external affairs. In addition, we would hope some accommodation might be reached on the question of the freedom of information reference to the committee. That matter is under discussion at the moment.

As far as the tabling of the motion relating to the external affairs debate is concerned, that will not be done until we have disposed of Bill C-5, but we would like it to be done as quickly as possible. In terms of the motion for the adjournment, we would also like to dispose of Bill C-8 prior to its introduction. If those two items are taken care of, we would be able to do those things tomorrow.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** That is a very full reply and I should like to think we can expect an equally full reply in

### *Business of the House*

relation to a question which was raised by my hon. friend from York-Simcoe who suggested that the government, if it wished, could introduce the important employment tax credit legislation which was talked about long before Bill C-11. We would undertake to deal with that bill quickly because it is such an important measure.

As well, I think it would be appropriate for the deputy government House leader to tell us now what the government intends to bring forward by way of legislation when we come back in January, particularly in terms of measures to deal with the economy of the country. I hope we shall not be coming back to deal with such things as a petroleum statistics bill. I realize that the hon. member may not have that kind of information available to him today, but would he consult his colleagues to determine whether before we leave an announcement could be made by the government House leader, the Deputy Prime Minister, telling us what measures the government plans to introduce to deal quickly with economic matters in terms of legislation?

**Mr. Cafik:** In connection with the expeditious passage of tax credit legislation prior to the adjournment, I must tell the hon. member that I am not in a position at the present time to know what stage that matter has reached; but I can assure him I will bring this question to the attention of my cabinet colleagues, together with the disposition which the hon. gentleman has expressed.

Second, in relation to tabling, prior to the adjournment, a list of legislation to be dealt with following the Christmas recess, I might say that this matter has been discussed on a number of occasions in the context of the announcement of business for a whole session. Such a practice has not been followed in the last 1½ or two years because the original reason for tabling a list of all legislation in advance was so we might be able to negotiate an arrangement whereby time would be allocated and the various bills, and so on, dealt with in an expeditious way. It did not serve that purpose, and for this reason the practice has not been followed recently. Nevertheless, I will draw the matter to the attention of the House leader, and I am sure it can be discussed when the House leaders meet.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Is it possible that the real reason why we do not get a list of legislation is that the government does not know what it is doing?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh!

**An hon. Member:** Cheap shot.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, that last question was one which I had in mind as a supplementary, but now I do not need to ask it.

**Mr. MacFarlane:** Humbug.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** May I get back to the minister's statement that he does not wish to table either the motion having to do with external affairs or the motion for