

Business of the House

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, there is difficulty sometimes in getting recognized in this mute corner over here that caused so much problem earlier in the day. I understand that and I understand the problems with independents. I will not accept any more, as long as I am in the House, that somehow with telepathic knowledge the Speaker will recognize people for either statements or questions who do not even levitate from their seat.

As long as that continues I will sit here on the backbench and make as much noise as I can because I do try to do my parliamentary aerobics to see if I can get recognition. That is my point of order.

Mr. Speaker, you and I know that I have had a point of privilege for a long time. I do not want to cause a disturbance. You have had enough today, but I am suggesting, Mr. Speaker, that you keep some control. I say to all members that they had better get up off their seat if they are going to catch the blind eye of an interested Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I anticipated this point of order. I want to say to the hon. member for Annapolis Valley—Hants that it is because I realize how modest and diffident our colleagues are that I have encouraged them occasionally to get up.

I do not want to delve into all of the potential discussions that could take place with respect to a list which I seem to be handed each day, for guidance only of course. I do not have to make any particular ruling. I am sure that the hon. member's comments have been heard by our colleagues and perhaps members will be rising with greater speed and precision in the future.

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WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the government House leader. Could he indicate to the House the business for the remainder of this day, as well as Friday and next week?

Perhaps while he is on his feet he could say whether or not he could share with the House the subject matter of the conflict of interest we had discussed earlier in the House leaders meeting. I think it is incumbent upon us to get back to the hon. minister.

I want to indicate to him that we are prepared to proceed with that subject matter, but I am wondering if

he could give me a timeframe. Also, in terms of the continuation of the debate as it relates to Bill C-115, the NAFTA bill, I wonder when he might be calling that for further discussions.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, this afternoon we will begin second reading of Bill C-118, the amendments to the Export Development Act.

• (1510)

Tomorrow we will begin second reading of Bill C-117, the Borrowing Authority Act. On Monday we will do report stage of Bill C-92, the income tax technical act, after which we hope to complete report stage and third reading of Bill S-8, the Motor Vehicle Safety Act. On Tuesday we hope to continue with Bill C-92. I will enter into discussions with the House leaders opposite in terms of the rest of that week.

In respect to the conflict of interest legislation, given that this legislation had come out of and was based on unanimous recommendation of a committee of this House, I was hopeful that we could have a limited debate on second reading, get it to committee and have it examined by the House for passage prior to the summer break.

I have been soliciting support from the opposition to see if we could do it this evening because to set aside the legislation which I would like to get passed before the end of this month would result in significant economic cost to the taxpayer. In other words, if we do not get them passed there will be money spent and wasted as a result of the failure to get the bills passed in a timely fashion. Hence the request for an evening sitting.

The same thing is true of the Canada Elections Act amendments, as they are the result of all-committee deliberations and received committee study. I would like to get report stage and third reading so the Chief Electoral Officer can put the legislation in place before the next election. That will not be possible if it is delayed more than a week or two.

I have not been able to get the agreement of the New Democratic Party to extra hours of sitting either at noon or in the evenings to accomplish that. After some frustration at the Department of Finance, I suggested setting aside a day for passage of the conflict of interest legislation at second reading and of the report stage and third reading of the Canada Elections Act. The New Democratic Party turned me down on that as well.