

The Budget—Mr. Gendron
GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

INFORMATION CANADA**QUEBEC—DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON FEDERALISM**

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio responsible for Information Canada.

In view of the statement by the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) yesterday that the way to sell federalism to Quebecers would be through Information Canada, can the Minister without Portfolio inform the House whether Information Canada will have the task of enlightening the Canadian people on the federal system and of expounding its advantages?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister without Portfolio): I hope so, Mr. Speaker. In our estimation this is not propaganda with a view to promoting federalism.

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MacLean: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Will the President of the Privy Council in his capacity as House Leader give his usual statement as to the business which the government plans to place before the House for the next week?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. member for the question. As the House knows, today will be the final day of the budget debate. Tomorrow the following bills will be called in this order: government order 13, Bill C-10 with regard to the Canada Shipping Act, government order 76, Bill S-14, with regard to radiation emitting devices, government order 15, the Senate amendments to Bill C-12, with regard to the International Development Research Centre.

On Monday we will call government order 84, Bill C-197, with regard to the National Farm Products Marketing Council. Tuesday will be an opposition day. On Wednesday we will call government order 53, with regard to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Price Stability. I hope the subject for Thursday can be a matter for discussion among the House Leaders.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

THE BUDGET**ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF MINISTER OF FINANCE**

The House resumed from Wednesday, April 15, consideration of the motion of Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

[Translation]

Mr. Rosaire Gendron (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, at paragraph 155 of the Auditor General's report to the House, one can read, and I quote:

155. Partial development of port which lacks prospective users, Gros Cacouna, Que.

This is all that was needed to prompt all information media to give this news front-page treatment and to have people cry shame. Never did the Gros-Cacouna project have so much adverse publicity.

Studies of the E.Q.P.B. show that in the pilot area, made up of the ten counties of the Lower St. Lawrence, about \$150 million are spent yearly in subsidies of all kinds to maintain some 300,000 people in economic stagnation, but this causes no indignation. However, any attempt made with the utmost difficulty to equip the area for economic development creates a scandal simply on the strength of the opinion expressed in the report of the Auditor General.

Naturally, it is the government that foots the bill anyway whether it be that of recession, much heavier to bear and non-productive, or that of progress which often represents the tenth part of what it should be, in giving those underdeveloped areas adequate transportation means to help them in their efforts towards industrialization.

Mr. Speaker, in giving the other side of the story, I do not expect the same audience or the same publicity the report of the Auditor General received. I am handicapped from the start, because in such matters, all the facts cannot be publicly disclosed. Everyone knows that in that field there is strong competition among the harbour cities as well as among areas and provinces. Everyone knows also that when we refer to prospective users, we mean private concerns and due to the competition among the latter, their future plans are confidential. As for concerns already estab-