

Oral Questions

formed the government, it would maintain existing financial support at levels commensurate with increases in the cost of living. However, the economic statement shows cuts and reductions in the budgets of cultural organizations. These cuts are proportionally greater—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: With great respect to the Hon. Member, does she have a question, please?

[Translation]

Ms. McDonald: Why is he asking this community, this sector of our economy, to accept these cuts? Why does he want an even larger proportion of people in the arts to live below the poverty line?

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, following the statement on economic policy by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), I informed the heads of the principal agencies or corporations connected with the Department of Communications of the objectives the Treasury Board has laid down for the future budget. These agencies and corporations are being asked to submit to the Department proposals commensurate with these objectives by the end of November.

In my forwarding letter I have asked these authorities to see to it that budgetary reductions or restrictions are applied mainly, if not exclusively, to the administration or organizational aspect of the arts, thus shielding the arts community itself from the impact of these budgetary restrictions.

[English]

ARTISTS' INCOME

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, would the Minister give his assurance to the House, to this community, and indeed to all citizens to whom the promises were made, that there will not be cuts in actual living income to artists, and that, if the cut-backs cannot be made entirely in the domain of administration, those cut-backs will be rescinded?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, since in these discussions between agencies and departments we must mutually respect the other's jurisdiction, I cannot, since I do not have the authority to do so, inform the House to what sector these budgetary restrictions will be applied. However, I can assure the Hon. Member that as soon as the programs or plans are submitted to me, I shall examine them very closely to ensure that Canada's arts community is not exposed to cutbacks owing to budgetary restrictions and that on the contrary, funding allocated for creative work and production is increased.

[English]

PETITIONS

TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Wednesday, November 14, 1984, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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Mr. Speaker: Perhaps if there are more Members who wish to congratulate Ministers, may I ask that they do it tomorrow so that we can simply use Question Period for questions and answers in future.

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● (1500)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, what are the plans of the Government House Leader respecting business of the House for the coming week?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of State (Government House Leader)): Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to continue with the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne tomorrow, Monday and Tuesday, which will bring the debate to its conclusion. Tuesday will be the eighth and final day of the debate.

I would like to designate next Wednesday as the first allotted day for the supply period ending on December 10, with the usual caveat that this line-up of business is subject to change in the event that circumstances, exigencies and priorities of the Government change.

Tomorrow I anticipate that the Striking Committee will report. There have been discussions among House Leaders and it has been agreed that the concurrence motion will be received tomorrow. There is an understanding among House Leaders that that concurrence report will be dealt with tomorrow and that there will be a maximum of one speaker per Party before the motion for concurrence is put to the House.

With respect to business of the House for Monday, there have been discussions among House Leaders concerning the procedural difficulty which we anticipate by virtue of the possibility of a deferred vote taking place at the end of that day. Accordingly, I ask the House for its unanimous consent to the following draft order:

That on Monday, November 19, 1984, notwithstanding any deferred division or divisions, if the Order of the Day for the consideration of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne is called, the business to be considered shall be the motion of the Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton.

I think Mr. Speaker will find that there is an inclination on the part of the House to accept that as an order of the House.

Mr. Speaker: I take it that there is unanimous consent.