

capital punishment, bilingualism, family income legislation, electoral boundaries, Immigration Appeal Board and legislation relating to the Olympics. I ask this as complementary to the question with regard to the business of the House for this week and next. In light of the fact tomorrow is June 1, the minister might like to keep the House acquainted with his views as to what he wants done.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the business for today and tomorrow has already been announced. Hopefully, it will be concluded early next week. We will continue our discussions. On Tuesday, I would like to call the report stage of the national housing bill, to be followed by the residential mortgage bill and the fisheries development bill. Thursday and Friday must be opposition days. Hopefully, within that week there will be a day designated to deal with the Ways and Means resolutions tabled this week. The following week will probably be taken up with consideration of the tax bill or bills and an Immigration Appeal Board bill.

With regard to the list of legislation that the hon. member has mentioned, certainly all of that is on the priority list to be dealt with before the summer adjournment. I would like to look at the list to see whether anything has been omitted.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, can the President of the Privy Council indicate when summer begins on his calendar?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I should add to the list the veterans legislation. The summer adjournment will begin when these bills are completed.

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. In light of the commitment made by the Prime Minister each year since 1967, may I ask the government House leader whether the bill on the limitation and control of election expenses will be presented to parliament during this coming month.

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Speaker. It will be presented. I am not sure whether it can be dealt with completely before the summer adjournment, but it will be presented before that time.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Perhaps Your Honour might want to hear the hon. member for Lotbinière first.

[Translation]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), in answer to the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Latulippe), has stated, if I have it right, that from now until the end of the session, a legislation on election expenses would be introduced according to what had been announced in the speech from the throne.

I realize that he will talk about it, but I would like to know whether the government leader anticipates that this bill can be considered and whether we will be able to pass it before the end of this session, or whether it will be introduced only for consideration during summer?

Business of the House

[English]

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a very important point of order affecting all hon. members. It has to do with the business of the House. According to Standing Order 58(14), as of midnight tonight, all estimates of the House will be deemed to have been passed. The standing order reads:

Each such committee shall consider and shall report, or shall be deemed to have reported, the same back to the House not later than May 31 in the then current fiscal year.

Today there are 11 standing committees and one special committee of the House meeting, with just a couple of exceptions, for the purpose of examining estimates. For example, four committees met at 9:30 this morning to examine estimates and two at 11 a.m.; four were scheduled to meet at 3:30 p.m. and two are scheduled to meet at 8 p.m. today. It is with regard to the meeting scheduled for 8 p.m. that I base my point of order.

The estimates of Information Canada are to be referred to the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts. These estimates will be examined for the first time at eight o'clock. That means the members of that committee will have a maximum of four hours to examine the estimates of this very important government agency. In fact, if the House adjourns at 10:30 and the committee adjourns at 10:30 as is the custom, we will have approximately two and one half hours to examine the estimates of Information Canada. I might point out that when the supplementary estimates were before the House, the vote under the heading Information Canada for \$19,000 was voted down by a majority vote of the House. This must have indicated to the government there was less than satisfaction in the House with this government agency and the substantial amount of government funds that have been earmarked for expenditure by this agency.

I realize that Your Honour's first reaction will be that no rule of the House is being violated or broken. That is true. However, this is certainly a flagrant violation and abuse of the rules of this House. Members of this House have the responsibility of examining the estimates. Government expenditures amounting to \$20 billion have been referred to the standing committees of this House for examination and scrutiny. If committees are meeting simultaneously with the sitting of the House, and that is another argument, my grievance is this: The government should have referred the estimates of Information Canada to the committee before two or four hours prior to the deadline set out in Standing Order 58(14). We can only conclude that the government does not want this agency to receive the kind of scrutiny it certainly warrants under the circumstances.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McGrath: When the estimates of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro) were being examined by the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration, we were informed that we could not examine the minister on the Information Canada vote because, for some strange reason yet unknown, the estimates of Information Canada were to be dealt with by another standing committee, the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts. Consequently, we were denied the oppor-