

Business of the House

Regarding the other committees that will have to report to us, we will have to see by their reports whether this question is dealt with.

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PETITIONS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions, with the exception of one, presented by Hon. Members on Wednesday, November 6, 1985, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

One of the petitions presented by the Hon. Member for Westmorland-Kent (Mr. Robichaud) does not meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honor to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill S-5, an Act to provide for the creation by amalgamation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, to which the concurrence of this House is desired.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**WEEKLY STATEMENT**

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, could the Government House Leader tell us what business he proposes for tomorrow and then for the week of November 19?

In addition, could he give us an outline of the business he proposes for the five weeks remaining to the Christmas adjournment?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I will respond as best I can with respect to the next two or three weeks, and I will try to address at the end of my remarks some of the hopes I have with respect to legislation that might be passed before Christmas.

Before that let me say that I am pleased to see the progress made in the House today.

At the present time we are dealing with Bill C-42. If that debate concludes, the next item of business I will call is Bill C-66, which deals with the reorganization of the Canada Development Corporation. A back-up to that piece of legislation will be Bill C-55, which contains amendments to the Immigration Act.

Tomorrow, as I previously announced, will be the second allotted day in the current supply period.

Next week, as Hon. Members will appreciate, the House will be in its mid-term recess in observance of Remembrance

Day. I anticipate that tomorrow, in the usual tradition, at 11 a.m., in anticipation of November 11, representatives of each Party will make statements in honour of those who served with such distinction on behalf of our country in the great wars.

Upon return to the House on November 18, our first priority will be to complete the debate at second reading stage on Bill C-62, which is the Bill to bring a new and progressive degree of employment equity to Canadians.

Following Bill C-62, we will return to consideration of second reading stage of Bill C-82, an Act to amend the Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax Act. Back-up legislation to Bill C-82 will be Bills C-46, C-47 and C-48 relating to the divorce law. These are currently at the report stage, as the Hon. House Leader for the Official Opposition will appreciate.

As can be expected, and as is the usual case, we will monitor the progress being made with respect to legislation that has been announced.

As the House Leader for the Official Opposition has mentioned, there are several Bills on the Order Paper and others coming out of committee which will be brought forward at the earliest possible date, such as Bill C-45, subject to some consultation with opposition Parties. Bill C-45 relates to parliamentary relations for employees of the House of Commons. I hope to deal with that Bill in a manner which will be acceptable in the best interests of the employees of the House of Commons.

We do have other Bills which I suppose I can simply say to the House Leader for the Official Opposition that Canadians expect us to bring forward and deal with expeditiously. Essentially they are pieces of legislation flowing from the Budget.

As the Hon. Opposition House Leader will know, it has been the practice of previous administrations to allow Bills flowing out of budgets to remain unpassed and undealt with for two to three years after a Budget has been brought down. This causes a great degree of uncertainty and some considerable dissatisfaction on the part of those who are trying to plan their affairs and deal with their tax returns. In a sense of fairness to the people of Canada we should try to have an adequate, thorough but nonetheless expeditious treatment of legislation flowing from the Budget. It will be my intention to give priority to those pieces of legislation, which I can assure Hon. Members will be introduced at an early date following our return.

There are important pieces of legislation, Mr. Speaker. Since the Hon. House Leader of the Official Opposition has asked me to cover the period until Christmas, I am only too happy to do so—

Mr. Deans: He did not mean for you to speak until Christmas.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: As soon as I give Hon. Members the good news, they do not want to listen to me, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): You could send me a letter.