

Business of the House

next few days. That is why I did not hold any meetings. A meeting was scheduled yesterday to discuss the resolution the House just adopted on the rights of Francophones in Manitoba, but, as my colleague will recall, we negotiated behind the curtains during question period and quickly reached an agreement without requiring a formal meeting with very positive results, as the House is aware.

I can assure the Hon. Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) that if he would like a meeting to discuss other than short-term business of the House or if he wishes to discuss short-term business as well, he merely has to notify me and I can assure him that I am always available to see him, on very short notice. We on this side of the House are always willing to discuss short-term House business, but I assumed that for the time being, neither his Party nor the New Democratic Party were willing to discuss the duration of debate on Bill C-155, and since this is the only bill on the agenda and since it is our main priority before we consider proroguing, I did not think it would serve any purpose to have these meetings. However, if my colleague wants a meeting, we could have one at his earliest convenience.

● (1600)

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, I would like, at the Government House Leader's convenience, to have such a meeting, not particularly to discuss business in this Chamber, but other matters relating to the administration of the House and so on which have been piling up on my desk in the last two or three weeks.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, if my colleagues are willing, we shall decide on a time acceptable to all parties. Perhaps we could meet early next week, Tuesday or later, some time during the day, unless my colleague prefers a meeting this afternoon, but I know that we are to discuss the procedural aspect of the amendments, and I think it would be more useful, unless my hon. colleague indicates otherwise, to meet early next week.

[English]

Mr. Deans: Madam Speaker, I asked the Government House Leader some time ago and then asked the Acting House Leader some time in the last two weeks what has become of Bill C-653. Quite clearly the Bill seems to be lodged somewhere in committee. The Government House Leader indicated to me that he would check with the committee and perhaps the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) to determine what the Government's intentions are with regard to this. I wonder whether he knows if something will be coming up in the reasonably foreseeable future.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, we avoid interfering in the business of committees, but the Minister I referred to the

other day was the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mrs. Erola).

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, perhaps the House Leader of the NDP is unaware that that Bill is now before committee, that the committee is holding current meetings and witnesses were heard this morning. I imagine that when the committee finishes its work, it will be back very shortly.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: Presentation of committee reports.

Mr. Tessier: Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the unanimous consent of the House for tabling an amended version of the Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates, to replace the report tabled in the House on Thursday, September 29, 1983.

Madam Speaker: Does the House give its unanimous consent?

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, I have had an opportunity of discussing the matter with our critic, the Hon. Member for Don Valley West (Mr. Bosley), and we quite agree that it can be presented.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: The Hon. Member has the unanimous consent of the House and may therefore proceed.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

MISCELLANEOUS ESTIMATES

PRESENTATION OF NINTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE AS AMENDED

Mr. Claude Tessier (Mégantic-Compton-Stanstead): Madam Speaker, I have the honour of tabling the Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates, as amended.

[Editor's Note: For above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]