

minister's statement that Treasury Board is prepared to resume negotiations with the postal workers I should like to ask whether the government negotiators are prepared to resume negotiations unconditionally in the true spirit of collective bargaining?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, one would think a member of that particular party would understand something about collective bargaining. If he did, he would not do it in the House of Commons and he would have more intelligence than to ask stupid questions.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Symes:** Mr. Speaker, I think we see why there is such a problem in the Post Office.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Symes:** I have been informed by the postal workers that they are prepared at two hours notice to sit down and negotiate on unconditional terms as is customary in negotiations. The minister has issued an ultimatum that they cannot negotiate a total package but must accept the wage offer.

**Mr. Mackasey:** The hon. member and about 250 other people have conveyed that message to me. When the union conveys it to me we shall resume negotiations, and not before.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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### CRIMINAL CODE

#### POSSIBILITY OF FREE VOTE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT MEASURE

**Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Solicitor General. It arises out of the government's announced intention to stay the commutations of those persons now in jail awaiting a decision on their commutations. The government has announced its intention of bringing in legislation. It is the government's intention to follow the practice which has been followed on numerous occasions of allowing a free vote on the question of capital punishment in the legislation?

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** We did not stay the commutations of those three gentlemen; we stayed their dates of execution until next summer. With respect to the substance of the question, I can only tell the hon. member that no decision has yet been made.

**Mr. Horner:** Am I to assume from the minister's answer that the cabinet is seriously considering allowing a free vote on this subject in the House?

● (1500)

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Speaker, there are many proposals which have been suggested to the cabinet, not only by people inside the cabinet but outside.

### Business of the House

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

#### WEEKLY STATEMENT

**Mr. Baldwin:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the government House leader the usual Thursday afternoon question: What are his intentions with regard to legislation in the House over the next week or ten days?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, there seems to be a reasonable expectation, if not a certainty, that the bill now under discussion will be disposed of at second reading this evening. If so, the government will call tomorrow the following bills: S-27, C-23, C-28 and C-25. After consultation with the House leaders, I am led to believe that there will be little or no debate on the first two items, that is to say, second reading of S-27 and the report stage and third reading of Bill C-23. I say this because if this hope is not realized I should like to ensure that my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, is called early tomorrow to deal with the second reading of Bill C-28. He has an engagement later in the day and I think we would all like to meet his convenience. But I do not think it will be necessary to vary that order.

May I also say, for the information of hon. members, that the House leaders have discussed the possibility of the House not sitting on Monday, November 10. I say this now so that members who may be thinking about their arrangements for that weekend might be able to arrange to do other things than attend the sittings of this House. However, everything is premised on the understanding that the time that is lost by being absent that day will be made up by an extension of hours on other days.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Mr. Speaker, just in case the minister's expectation as to completing C-73 is not fulfilled—and I am one who hopes it will be—is it the intention of the government to proceed next Monday with the resumption of second reading of Bill C-73?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I would think that it would be undesirable to take Bill C-73 out of the House. If our expectations, which I hope are reasonable ones—I think everyone has an interest in getting the bill into committee—are not realized, then tomorrow we will continue with this debate. However, I hope there will be agreement, if any member wants a vote, to postpone the vote until Monday.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, with respect to the business that the government is bringing before the House, in view of questions I have asked on two or three occasions, can the government House leader now tell us when the bill to amend the Government Annuities Act and the bill respecting veterans who were prisoners of war will be introduced?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I can speak with authority only in the first of those bills. This was discussed in cabinet today and my colleague the Minister of Manpower and