

*Oral Questions*

[English]

## CANADIANIZATION POLICY INQUIRY

**Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, more precisely, will the Minister affirm his commitment to the Canadianization policy and inform the House that Investment Canada will require Gulf & Western to sell GLC to a Canadian buyer, something which is required by the Government's own Canadianization policy for the book publishing industry?

[Translation]

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that we have an abiding interest in the question she raised about the publishing industry. We are still discussing the issue with Investment Canada officials and the companies in question, with a view to finding appropriate solutions and making the appropriate decision, and, I repeat, to safeguard the interests of Canadians.

\* \* \*

[English]

## NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

## TASK FORCE'S EXAMINATION OF BUDGETARY CUTS

**Mr. David Berger (Laurier):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion in the absence of the Minister of State for Science and Technology who, I gather, is in hospital for tests. I am sure my colleagues in the House would join me in wishing him well.

On November 7 the Minister of State for Science and Technology set up a task force to review the cuts at the NRC. The task force, though, has no formal terms of reference and is not authorized to reverse the Government's decision to cut \$20 million from the budget of the NRC. Will the Government give the task force the power to reverse the decision to cut \$20 million from the budget of the NRC?

[Translation]

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I echo the sentiments of the Hon. member and once again wish a speedy recovery to our colleague on this side of the House who is now in hospital.

I should like to give a more detailed answer to this question. True enough, the task force does not have the power to reverse the decision, but I am sure the Minister will consider the recommendations and consult with National Research Council with a view to making a decision in the best interest—

## GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. David Berger (Laurier):** I am asking the Minister to authorize the task force to review the decision concerning the

\$20-million cut-back. Surely he can make this recommendation to the Minister.

Secondly, will he undertake to release the task force recommendations as soon as they have been submitted to the Minister?

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** If I may, Mr. Speaker, I should like to take notice of these two questions and refer them to my colleague.

As to whether the information should be made public, I think my colleague will take the matter under advisement. With respect to giving more power to the task force, Mr. Speaker, I doubt that my colleague intends to give the task force the responsibility and authority to reverse a decision, but he will certainly take the recommendations under consideration before making a final decision.

\* \* \*

[English]

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, there have been earlier discussions with representatives of the opposition Parties and I simply want to confirm that tomorrow will be designated as an allotted day.

\* \* \*

## POINTS OF ORDER

## QUESTIONS RAISED IN HOUSE ON MATTERS BEFORE COMMITTEES

**Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order arising out of Question Period relating to a couple of questions that were asked. One such question was asked by the Hon. Member for Gander—Twillingate (Mr. Baker), and the second group of questions was asked by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Keeper).

Beauchesne's Citation 360(3) indicates that a question may not seek information about proceedings in a committee which has not yet made its report to the House. In light of the reforms that have recently taken place and the new role and influence that I believe committees of the House of Commons now have, I think it is absolutely imperative that any questions on those particular issues not be raised in the House of Commons. The reasons for this are very simple. If those questions are raised and the Minister responds to them, it prejudices the ability of the committee to operate freely. It also very much prejudices its chance of making a clear, free and independent decision.

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, it has long been understood that it is quite acceptable to ask questions in