

Business of the House

[Translation]

HEALTH, WELFARE AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Second report of Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs—Mr. Robinson.

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

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NATIONAL REVENUE

TABLING OF COPY OF WORKING AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table, pursuant to Standing Order 41, and naturally in both official languages copies of the working agreement signed by American Internal Revenue Service Commissioner Jerome Kurtz and myself on a simultaneous examination of the files of taxpayers under the terms of the tax agreement or treaty that exists between our two countries.

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[English]

CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

FRANCHISE FOR DND TEACHERS ABROAD

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-426, to amend the Canada Elections Act (teachers voting abroad).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Epp: At the present time teachers under contract with the Department of National Defence, who are teaching at Canadian Forces bases located outside of Canada are not entitled to vote in federal general elections. Armed Forces personnel are enfranchised.

The purpose of this bill is to give the right to vote to Canadian citizens teaching overseas under contract at DND schools. It is a bill which would end the discrimination against Canadian teachers who have volunteered their services to Canada, thus enabling us to fulfil our international obligations.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, as I shall not be in the House tomorrow I should like to advise the House of the order

[Mr. Speaker.]

of business for tomorrow and next week. Tomorrow we will continue with report stage of the unemployment insurance bill, and next week we will continue with that bill and a number of other bills which are at report stage. No bill will be called that is not at report stage, which includes the Bretton Woods and currency and exchange bills, and the one affecting the Auditor General. I understand two bills have been reported from committee today.

As a result of informal discussions with my counterparts I have been attempting to arrange a two day debate on national unity. The dates that had originally been proposed, Wednesday and Thursday of next week, are running into difficulties. Unless suitable dates can be found for next week it might be in the interest of the House to defer that debate until the following week. I would appreciate hon. members' comments so that I could prepare for either eventuality.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the difficulties and have considered the possibility of having the debate in the next following week. At first blush that would appear to be the only reasonable solution, but I will check with my colleagues a little later.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I hope the possibility of having this debate on two days the week after next will be considered. As the other two House leaders know, there are problems. We are certainly prepared to enter into discussions so that this may be resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Mr. Goodale: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could bring up a matter of House business that relates to private members' hour in the period between now and the end of the month. There has been some difficulty with the days which would normally be scheduled for private members' business in that period—it would of course be only tomorrow and a week from tomorrow. There have been some discussions and there seems to be a disposition to proceed with private members' hour tomorrow, but to change the normal order of business. We would normally deal with motions for the production of papers tomorrow but I understand there is a disposition to deal instead with Bill C-1001 standing in the name of the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Reid). At the conclusion of that item we would move to Bill S-2 standing in the name of the hon. member for Scarborough East (Mr. O'Connell), which would probably tend to occupy that hour.

In the following week, instead of calling private members' business at five o'clock on Thursday, there is a disposition to take the hour between five and six p.m. on Tuesday for private members' business and to deal with a number of bills standing in the names of eight members, which affect certain changes in the names of constituencies. For the balance of that hour we would resume debate on the motion for the production of papers standing in the name of the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) which otherwise would have been called tomorrow.