

Business of the House

Mr. Nielsen: No, it was not.

Madam Speaker: I have listened to the hon. member, who protests the fact that the minister is raising a point of order. However, the minister is allowed to raise a point of order, and I will recognize him.

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, I cannot understand why the hon. member for Yukon should make such a fuss because I have not even had time to state what my point of order is.

Mr. Nielsen: You are correcting an answer.

Mr. Rossi: Listen and learn, Nielsen.

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, I indicated in my answer that it was important to treat each other with fairness and honesty. I am afraid that in my answer I indeed may not have spelled out all the facts. I indicated that the Hon. Mr. Sharp had made a speech after the—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I thought the minister wanted to correct a figure or something he said in the course of question period. I might have allowed that, but I believe the minister is now trying to extend the answer which he gave during the question period. That is quite legitimate, but he cannot do it at this time. He might do it when he is asked another question on another occasion.

Mr. Nielsen: Stop abusing the rules.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order relating to House business. I have two questions. First, I will ask the President of the Privy Council, the government House leader, to indicate to the House the status at this time of a very important bill, Bill C-53, which would redefine rape as a violent assault rather than a crime of passion. This is a bill for which Canadian women have been waiting a long time. We on this side of the House have indicated our desire to see the bill go to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs quickly where a number of important amendments could be made. I cannot imagine that the Conservative party would wish to hold up such an important bill.

Mr. Paproski: Shame!

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): We can hear from the justice critic of the Conservative party as to whether the members of his party are willing to co-operate on this bill. We can hear from him as soon as I sit down, but in the meantime I will ask the government House leader whether he is prepared to bring the bill forward at an early date in order to ensure that it gets to committee. I am sure the Conservative party will want to co-operate in seeing that the bill goes forward very quickly that day.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: No question.

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): My second point relates to the question of Remembrance Day. I for one appreciate the flexibility which has been shown by the government House leader in response to interventions made on this side of the House. I am a British Columbia member, and the government House leader should be aware of the fact that I must be back in British Columbia at eleven o'clock on Wednesday morning. In order to do that I have to go back the previous day. I am sure that is the case with a number of British Columbia members. I trust that the minister will take that into careful consideration when deciding how to approach the way in which we honour the veterans of past wars.

As to the matter of Bill C-53, a matter which, as I say, is of great importance to Canadian women, when can we expect that bill to be called?

● (1530)

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, if we could reach an agreement with the two opposition House leaders, we could dispose of this by next Friday, provided there is one spokesman for each party and the bill is referred to the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, which will require the co-operation of both opposition parties. This is one of the bills appearing on a list of bills being considered by the House leaders, bills which are assumed to be non-controversial and which could be disposed of on a Friday afternoon. So I am quite willing, as I have done before, to include the bill in the list of measures that could be disposed of on a Friday afternoon within the next few weeks.

[English]

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, I welcome the show of flexibility in the House leader. I hope that in the exercise of that flexibility he will recall that it was the Prime Minister who was first to suggest that budget day might be on the tenth and he should bear in mind at the same time that it demonstrated both a contempt for this House and a contempt for the veterans of this country by the Prime Minister who, of course, refused to serve in Canada's forces during the war.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Second, he should try to bear in mind that there is no need for the Minister of Finance to be at the meeting of first ministers. The first ministers can meet at the same time as the budget is being read in this House.

The third point has already been mentioned by the hon. member for Burnaby—

An hon. Member: That is not a question of privilege.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): No, it is not a question of privilege, it is a point of order. Third, I hope that in the exercise of his flexibility he will take into account the flight schedules between here and the west coast. Many of us cannot