

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

### HEALTH AND WELFARE, SOCIAL AFFAIRS, SENIORS AND STATUS OF WOMEN

#### FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 109, I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the first report of the Standing Committee on Health and Welfare, Social Affairs, Seniors and the Status of Women entitled "The Health Care System in Canada and Its Funding: No Easy Solution".

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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• (1510)

[English]

### GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

**Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table pursuant to Section 36(8) of the Standing Orders the government responses to several petitions.

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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### PRESENCE IN GALLERY

**Mr. Speaker:** I apologize to hon. members. I would like to take a moment. I was concentrating a few minutes ago on a point of order and in doing so I neglected to do something which I know hon. members would want me to do and that is draw to the members' attention the presence in the gallery of Dr. Dimitri Rupel, Minister of Foreign Affairs for Slovenia.

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### POINT OF ORDER

#### BILL C-35

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, since you have now taken the Chair, as you

### Routine Proceedings

are fully aware on Friday of last week I had raised a procedural argument with regard to bill C-35. Of course there were several hours remaining on Friday. We had the weekend. We have had Monday, Tuesday and it is now 3.10 on Wednesday afternoon.

I am wondering if the Chair would now be in a position to give information to members of Parliament as to when that procedural argument will be taken back into the Chamber and a decision made so we may proceed with the business of the House.

[Translation]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** I understand the opposition House leader's interest and also his impatience, if I may say so, but I can only repeat what I said yesterday, as I have received no further indications since that time. Once again, the Chair will certainly consider the hon. member's interest in this matter and will provide the requisite clarification with respect to the questions raised by the opposition House leader as soon as possible.

[English]

**Mr. Dingwall:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Chair for the intervention. I do not think it would be too onerous on the Chair if perhaps some indication could be given as to when the ruling may be forthcoming.

We are presently debating subject matter before the House which has a direct reference to the items contained in Bill C-35 and in particular, Part III. I realize that the Table, the Chair and members are preoccupied with bigger and more important issues.

I would like to have some idea from the Chair and/or Table as to when we might expect a decision on that procedural argument on Bill C-35. Perhaps the Chair could indicate that it will be done in the quickness of time before the end of this week. Will it be done before the end of next week? Will it be done before the House recesses for Christmas?

I do not wish to ask the Chair to give me a specific time. Surely the Chair, understanding the frustrations that members have to contend with, could give us some approximation as to when the decision will be forthcoming with the arguments one way or the other on my procedural case on Bill C-35.