

country deserves a statement as to our financial position and because it is important to the new program that we worked out as part of our procedures to have the budget in the spring, it would be a good idea to have the budget presentation at that time.

I am interested, of course, in noting that the government house leader has included the proposed Income Tax Act amendment so as to make an honest man out of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson), who is presently collecting a 2 per cent social disillusionment tax that has not yet been passed by parliament. In looking over the list of bills that we have before us, I am inclined to say that the important thing is not the number of pieces of legislation with which we are presented but the quality and value of those pieces of legislation. There are some notably missing. May I say a word or two about two or three which are on the list.

There is a reference to the Canada Development Corporation. This reminds me of the millions of times people pray "Thy kingdom come" but never expect it to happen. I hope that this time the government is going to go ahead with the Canada Development Corporation that has been mentioned so often. We trust that the housing legislation will have some real substance, some real content in it. I hope, too, that the reference to the Old Age Security Act and to the Statute Law (Superannuation) Amendment Act amendment means that we will not just be tidying up a few anomalies, but that the important needs which must be met under these acts will be dealt with at this session. I refer to the need for increased pensions.

I draw the minister's attention to the fact that there is not in the list any reference to the omnibus bill No. 2 to which the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) referred yesterday, nor is there any reference to any legislation arising out of the Woods report which is being considered by the Committee on Veterans Affairs. Consequently there is no reference to war veterans allowance under such legislation. We think this matter ought to be dealt with at this session. I have one other comment, Mr. Speaker. We welcome the reference to the Indian claims legislation that is to be dealt with at this session but, as has been stated on previous occasions, we feel that this legislation should not be proceeded with until the views of the native people of Canada have been heard with respect to it.

The government will have our co-operation in trying to get this program of legislation

Reference of votes to Standing Committees through within the target dates that have been suggested, but we urge, again, that what is important is the quality of the legislation. We plead for quality and substance in the legislation referring to the Canada Development Corporation, as well as in the legislation dealing with housing and matters related to pensions and to our war veterans.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, we, of the Ralliement Cr ditiste, can assure the government house leader of our entire co-operation regarding the legislative program we shall have to pass before the summer recess.

We have had the opportunity to become acquainted with the proposals already before us. Some bills require more careful consideration than others. That is why it is so difficult to come to a decision in advance as to the many pieces of legislation that the government intends to introduce and which have not as yet been tabled in this house, as we do not know yet their exact content.

At all events, according to the agenda submitted in conformity with the procedure, we shall have approximately 58 days, I think, to study the bills already before the house and those who are listed on the program we approved yesterday, and which was suggested in the house today.

Is it not strange that Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day which falls before June 27 is not mentioned before the adjournment of the house for the summer recess? Will we have to sit on June 24?

The government house leader did not mention this great feast day to which the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) attached so much importance last year, before the elections, and which was celebrated with great pomp in Montreal. I wonder whether we should attach a special importance to the celebration of Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day this year.

[English]

  (2:30 p.m.)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

ESTIMATES

REFERENCE OF VOTES OF CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS TO STANDING COMMITTEES

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council) moved:

That the Estimates of sums required for the service for Canada for the year ending March 31,