[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

CONSIDERATION OF ESTIMATES FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board. Can the minister say whether we will be dealing with any of the estimates he tabled today in this session or will we deal with all of them in the next session of parliament?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, on the presumption that this session will be ended very quickly I would hope they would be dealt with in the next session.

Mr. Knowles: As a supplementary question, may I ask the minister whether the government will be seeking interim supply before the Easter recess?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, it would be my hope that we would get interim supply so we would have supply before the Easter recess as it probably will extend into April.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

DISTRIBUTION OF HAWTHORN-TREMBLAY REPORT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I would like to give the Secretary of State an opportunity to demonstrate whether the confidence which was expressed in her by the Minister of Industry last Friday is well founded. He informed my colleague, the hon. member for Skeena, that she had heard the representations and would act on them and make available to Indian bands across the country copies of the Hawthorn-Tremblay interim report—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows that according to the rules he has to ask a question. A question should not be prefaced with a speech, however long.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Secretary of State whether she has acted upon that request and will in fact make copies of the report available to Indian bands across the country without cost so they may study it?

Bank of Canada Act

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I would think normally this would lie within the responsibility of my seatmate, but do I take it that my hon. friend is asking a question about printing?

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Speaker, perhaps if I might—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member and the minister might get together after we call orders of the day and decide whether or not they have a question.

• (3:40 p.m.)

BANK OF CANADA ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING DIRECTION OF MONETARY POLICY, CASH RESERVES, ETC.

The house resumed, from Friday, March 10, consideration in committee of Bill No. C-190, to amend the Bank of Canada Act—Mr. Sharp—Mr. Batten in the chair.

The Chairman: When the committee rose on Friday clause 1 was being discussed.

On clause 1-

[Translation]

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Chairman, I wish to make some remarks at this stage of consideration, in committee, of Bill No. C-190, for the good reason I was not on the committee because we were entitled to only one representative, according to the proportional representation.

Obviously, I could have made those remarks on motion for second reading as others did; however, I have chosen to wait for the results of the work of the committee.

This will allow us, after going through previous studies, to make a more realistic comparison of the work done.

This is the third decennial revision since the establishment of the Bank of Canada, and we find that nothing has been changed in the essence; in its endless repetition history reminds us of the hands of a clock.

Nothing has been changed, either in the procedure applicable to special and standing committees, or in the way witnesses are called before the standing committee; it has changed even less as far as evidence is concerned, except for the more ruthless way of dismissing embarrassing witnesses.

As a matter of fact, most witnesses are carefully selected in advance by a steering committee which must take a vote. The briefs themselves are appraised in advance by that select committee before being read