Business of the House

as soon as possible. If the Government chooses to bring it to the House, we would not delay it unduly on second reading. Will the Government House Leader tell us when he plans to bring this legislation before the House?

• (1510)

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Member's question. The House Leader of the Official Opposition has not made the same inquiry of me. In the course of House Leaders' meetings I have listed—

Mr. Deans: Oh, oh.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I am not talking about the content. We have had discussions with respect to the business before us and whether we will make progress on the items of business. Since he is asking me, I will try to give some idea of what we intend to do before we rise, if we do rise, for the summer recess. We hope to make progress.

In the spirit of consultation, we have dealt with a number of legislative initiatives. Some have been easier than others, but that is to be expected. Perhaps I will deal with the immediate future. On the basis of consultations with Opposition House Leaders, we have talked about what we might be able to do before the Budget is brought down at 4.30 p.m. next Thursday, as established by an Order of the House. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) will be in the House at that time.

We have some legislation on which I would like to see whether we can make progress starting tomorrow. We will proceed with Bill C-25 dealing with the Agricultural Stabilization Act. Hopefully we can get that matter into committee, and there has been some discussion about the reasonable prospect of that happening.

Perhaps the Hon. Member was referring to the Bills relating to divorce and the enforcement of maintenance orders, not the one respecting prostitution.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): I referred to Bill C-40.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I am sorry. That is a new situation. It has not been discussed with me. We have talked about it in a very general way. I am pleased to have had that representation from the Liberal Party, and to know that it is interested in proceeding with the Bill relating to amendments to the Criminal Code on prostitution and street soliciting. That will be helpful. I will take it under advisement. I know the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) wants to make progress on it. I will discuss it with the representative of the New Democratic Party to see whether we can get as quick a disposition of it as possible.

However, there have been discussions with respect to Bill C-46, Bill C-47 and Bill C-48 relating to divorce and the enforcement of maintenance orders, as well as an ancillary Divorce Act amendment. There may be a disposition on the part of all Hon. Members to deal with the three Bills in one debate. I think the House Leader of the Official Opposition

indicated on behalf of the Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan) that, rather than repeat the debate on each on the items, we deal with them in one debate and discuss all items relating to the legislation. on that basis I thought I would put that legislation on as a back-up for tomorrow.

If the House concludes consideration of those Bills, we could move on to consideration of Bill C-32, the fisheries Bill. There are discussions taking place with respect to that legislation. I was hoping that we would get the fisheries Bill on for tomorrow, but, since there are discussions and the possibility of coming to an agreement with respect to moving on it, I will have it as the third item.

Of course the House will not sit on Monday, and if consideration of the Bills which I have enumerated is not concluded on Friday, they will be considered on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday until 4 p.m. when the Order of the House indicates that we will suspend the sitting until 4.30 p.m. As usual the Government will monitor the progress made with respect to House business, and changes and additions to the business will be made as required and appropriate.

In general terms with respect to the legislation on the Order Paper, of course we are interested in making progress on those items. We hope to make early disposition of those items which are now moving through second reading to get those matters into committee, so that the month of June could be used for the purpose of hearing witnesses and considering legislation in detail. As the Hon. member knows, it is possible to make some progress during the last two weeks of June. I hope we will make that progress, and I hope we will be able to sit down and work out an agenda to the mutual satisfaction of the Opposition and the Government. It seems to me that there is an attainable objective of making progress on most of the items on the Order Paper at the present time, including those items now before committee. I know it is an ambitious proposal, but I hope with some goodwill we will be able to make that kind of progress.

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, dealing with one question which was asked but not answered with regard to the budget debate, perhaps the Government House Leader, when he rises, could address the question of how he intends to allocate time for the replies to the Budget.

The second matter concerns the order in which the legislation will be called. I totally agree that in fact we came to an understanding with regard to Bill C-25. I anticipate that that Bill will be dealt with tomorrow. However, my recollection was that we thought we would be able to deal with the three Bills related to the divorce legislation on Tuesday and perhaps on part of Wednesday, to resolve those questions and get them into committee. We think that they should in fact go into committee quickly so that the views of those persons most affected and most interested will be heard, and then the House of Commons might deal with it.

As the Government House Leader said, we are actively looking at ways to deal with Bill C-32, the fisheries Bill. I hope