

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

## WEEKLY STATEMENT

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the customary question of the Government House Leader as to what business for the Government he intends to call for the coming week.

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to. I must say that I was rather surprised in the Question Period today—and it clearly demonstrates how badly the opposition Parties are out of touch when they fail to recognize the economic realities in the country—not to hear that we have the lowest interest rate in thirteen and a half years of 7.14 per cent.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** There are some things, I suppose, that create certain temptations in the Chamber. The Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray) has asked a question of the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) with respect to the business—

**Mr. Gray (Windsor West):** I have asked the question. If he wants to talk about records, he should talk about—

**Some Hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister would like to respond.

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin).

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, I think it behooves the House to remember that yesterday was St. Paddy's Day and that if the Deputy Prime Minister wants to practise blarney, yesterday was the day to do it.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member has, of course, as have all Hon. Members, the right to think anything he wants about what was yesterday. It is not for the Chair to point out that today is March 19.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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**Mr. Speaker:** In any event, the Deputy Prime Minister has the floor.

**Mr. Murphy:** Perhaps he can say something intelligent.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, we know that the Hon. Member who just spoke is noted for his blarney, but he is also noted for the fact that he is quite a politician. He just came back from Newfoundland after deposing his provincial leader.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps I should share with Hon. Members that the Hon. Member for Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin) pointed out that in Newfoundland they celebrate St. Patrick's Day for two days.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** But if we do not get to the business of the day, we will be here for a couple of days. The Hon. Deputy Prime Minister has the floor.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, today we will continue with Bill C-44. My understanding is that there is an agreement among all Parties to conclude this piece of legislation in all stages.

**Mr. Garneau:** If you don't make any more statements.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I will not make any more statements, provided the Hon. Member does not extend me the invitation.

We will complete Bill C-44 today. Friday will be an allotted day; Monday next will be an allotted day; Tuesday will be an allotted day; Wednesday we will proceed with Bills C-43 and C-45. I understand that there has been some discussion with regard to the expeditious passage of those two pieces of legislation. Bill C-38 on Teleglobe will follow, being at report stage.

• (1510)

**Mr. Murphy:** Madam Speaker, just to clarify, I think the Government House Leader meant to say, although he seemed to use a lot of verbiage today, that there was agreement for second reading today. The reason our NDP caucus gave agreement to that was to ensure that the many witnesses who wish to appear on the equalization legislation will have the opportunity to do so all of next week and into the week following.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Madam Speaker, I am sorry, the Hon. Member is correct. It was a misunderstanding on my part.