

his right to pursue those questions with the ministers responsible.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I have one final supplementary. This is a very important matter. It appears that the minister is fluffing off his responsibility.

An hon. Member: Come on.

Mr. Alexander: Don't tell me "come on". We are trying to get the facts. That is all we are trying to do. In light of the fact that the Seafarers' Union is under federal jurisdiction, and the solicitor general and the attorney general of Ontario recognize that fact and are therefore reluctant to move, will the minister now appreciate that fact and move himself in order that we can appreciate that the minister knows what his responsibilities are in this regard?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, let me make this quite clear. It is within the jurisdiction of a province, and in many cases this is what is done, for the attorney general to enforce provisions of the Criminal Code with regard to Canadian citizens residing in their province. The fact that this union may be chartered under federal labour laws is not pertinent to this particular question. If wrongdoing is alleged and enough facts have been advanced to me by Mr. Shulman to substantiate it, and none have been advanced to me, or to the federal Minister of Justice or Attorney General or the attorney general of the province of Ontario, there is a duty to investigate the matter. That is where this matter presently stands. On the other hand, if the hon. member is suggesting on the basis of an article like this that every politician in this House of Commons, irrespective of political persuasion, should be investigated, that is another matter.

Mr. Alexander: I didn't suggest that.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the usual Thursday point of order. I wish to ask the government House leader about the business of the House for the next week. In his reply, I ask him to indicate whether it is the intention of the government to continue the budget debate without interruption. Also, I assume there will be some time after that for other business before budget bills are brought in. What will be done in that interval? In light of exchanges which took place today and previously, will the government House leader seriously consider bringing in terms of reference to a committee on the issue of conflict of interest which has already been before the House?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the business for the next week, I can confirm that it is the government's intention that the budget debate should proceed on consecutive days until it is completed. It is also the govern-

The Budget—Mr. Breau

ment's intention that there be a break between the conclusion of that debate and the introduction of the budget bills. I hope I will have an opportunity of talking with my colleagues, the other House leaders, about the business we might have for Thursday and subsequently. I hope we might be able to proceed with the final stages of some of the bills that are on our urgent list that will be reported back from committees and which I am sure members opposite want to see completed.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed, from Wednesday, November 20, consideration of the motion of Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government; the amendment of Mr. Stanfield (p. 1502) and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Nystrom (p. 1506).

Mr. Herb Breau (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have had opportunities to speak in the House during this parliament on behalf of the Department of External Affairs, but this is the first time I participate in a general debate.

Therefore, it is suitable that I offer you, Madam Speaker, my congratulations upon your election to those high duties. I pause to give the House a chance to get back to order.

The Acting Speaker (Mme Morin): Order, please.

Mr. Breau: Madam Speaker, I am convinced that the hon. member for Sudbury (Mr. Jerome) was experienced enough to take this burdensome responsibility of presiding over the proceedings of the House and that he is able to perform those duties with competence, firmness and fairness. In fact, he has already proved it.

Before dealing with my riding and area, Madam Speaker, I should like to make a few comments on the budget and the economic situation. I believe the budget speech the Minister of Finance made last Monday evening is a responsible and fair document.

● (1530)

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order, please. There are many conversations going on while the hon. member is trying to deliver his speech. The Chair would appreciate it if those who wish to carry on conversations would do so behind the curtain.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mainly on your side.

Mr. Breau: No, not only on my side.