

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I have here standing order 26 which states this:

Any ruling made by Mr. Speaker after listening to argument on the question of urgency.

There is no mention here that Mr. Speaker can restrict the reasons, can allow certain members to speak on the question and refuse that permission to others, but it states and I quote:

—after listening to argument—

—on the question of urgency. That is exactly what I intended to do, Mr. Speaker. You do not want me to do it. I shall not do it. I am going to co-operate with the Chair but it is rather strange that other hon. members were allowed to state their reasons and that, when my turn came, I was denied that permission, and I still wonder why.

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON LEGISLATION TO BE DEALT WITH

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. I ask this question in the interest of facilitating the business of the house and enlarging the comprehension of members and the public. I ask the Prime Minister whether on an early occasion he will give to parliament, as he has given to the press, a list of legislation and a detailed timetable of the priority for dealing with such legislation. This will provide Canadians across the country with some assurance that the very real issues of economic expansion, high prices, national development and national unity will be faced firmly by this parliament.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would be very glad to see that the right hon. member—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pearson: The hon. gentleman has already begun to impress me. I would be very glad to see that the hon. gentleman is given a list of the kind he has suggested, and other hon. members also. The priority and order in which these proposals are to be taken should be worked out in consultation with the leaders of the parties. In respect of the particular matters which the hon. gentleman mentioned, which are not necessarily related to specific acts of parliament at this time, there will be

Inquiries of the Ministry

a budget debate—I think it will be next week—of five days, I believe, if parliament wishes to take five days, and I hope we will be able to cover the economic situation at that time. Then there will be two supply debates very shortly. So far as legislative proposals are concerned, I suggest there be a meeting at a very early date to try to work out priorities which will be agreeable to all.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM—INQUIRY AS TO SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Can he inform the house whether the Secretary of State for External Affairs, during his stay in New York leading our delegation to the United Nations, has had discussions with representatives of other governments regarding possible steps toward peace negotiations in Viet Nam? If so, can the right hon. Prime Minister inform the house whether there is some hope that such steps are being seriously considered by the governments concerned?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs has discussed this and other matters with delegates to the United Nations assembly. He has had several meetings with foreign ministers. Viet Nam was certainly one of the matters discussed, as indeed were other matters including the situation in the Near East.

As a result of these discussions I can only say at this time that there is nothing to encourage the view that constructive negotiations on the war in Viet Nam can begin at this time. But that does not mean we are not pursuing with others at the United Nations the possibility of changing that situation. My hon. friend the Secretary of State for External Affairs made his statement to the assembly today. He dealt with this matter, among others, in that statement. I hope he will be in the house tomorrow, and perhaps he will be in a position then to answer questions on that statement.

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the right hon. gentleman inform the house whether the government has recently made representations to the government of the United States urging it to stop the bombing of North Viet Nam, particularly,