

Speaker's Ruling

Next Thursday will be an allotted day.

[English]

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the government's announcement concerning the business for Monday next when I take it we will be dealing with the message from the Senate concerning Bill C-21.

I should like to make a request of the government, and I do this in good faith. A notice to the House is usually given with respect to every government initiative that I know of. The notice to the House gives the government's position or what the motion will be. Thus there is notice given to the members of this House as to the position to be debated.

In the case of the message here, I think it is quite acceptable that it has been the tradition of the House that the minister speaking first in the debate will speak to the message given by the Senate and then will propose a motion at the end of his remarks, at which time opposition members and those other members interested have to respond.

For the sake of good and possibly more effective debate, would the minister be willing to give notice tomorrow on the Order Paper of the government's position *vis-à-vis* the message from the Senate so that we can adjust our speeches accordingly?

Mr. Andre: If we could have assurances of good and meaningful debate, I would give the hon. House leader of the Official Opposition all the notice in the world. However, I see no advantage in terms of accomplishing what we want to accomplish by trying to surprise the House by way of the contents of that motion. I will endeavour to give as much warning as I possibly can in terms of that motion.

Suffice it to say it will not be that we accept the amendments from the Senate. However, I will endeavour to supply the details as soon as possible, quite probably tomorrow. There is no desire on my part to keep it as a surprise until Monday.

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, could the government House leader indicate to us whether one of the items that will be before Parliament next week, in addition to the items that he has already raised, would be the introduction of the legislation promised by the Minister of the Environment dealing

with the environmental assessment review process. Will that be tabled next week?

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the hon. member the assurance that it will be done next week. I can give him the assurance that the Minister of the Environment is proceeding with it as quickly as possible and we will bring it forward as quickly as possible. I cannot assure him that it will be ready next week.

* * *

POINT OF ORDER**BUDGET DEBATE—SPEAKER'S RULING**

Mr. Speaker: On Monday, March 5, 1990, the hon. member for Kamloops rose on a point of order to suggest that the debate on the budget be suspended and that the Chair review the government bill currently on notice entitled "an act to amend certain statutes to enable restraint of government expenditures", and determine whether or not the House should proceed with that bill at this time.

In his submission the hon. member noted that the Government of British Columbia has approached the Court of Appeal to ask for a ruling on the legitimacy of one of the components of the budget, namely proposed changes to the Canada Assistance Plan Act and the responsibility of the Government of Canada under its terms.

He also noted that historically the House has by the *sub judice* convention restrained itself from discussing questions which are before the courts when such a discussion would prejudice the outcome of those proceedings.

In his presentation the hon. House leader for the New Democratic Party made reference to Beauchesne's sixth edition, citation 508(4) which states:

(4) The reference of a bill to the Supreme Court of Canada withdraws that bill temporarily from the jurisdiction of Parliament—The question cannot be before two public bodies at the same time.

He also referred to the ruling upon which this citation is based.

As I indicated on Monday, I have given careful consideration to this reference, the ruling and the proceedings on which this citation is based, that is the citation which was given to me as the basis of the argument put forward by the hon. House leader of the