

Business of the House

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is supplementary to the one about House business. We have had some discussion about certain matters that might be referred to committees. I wonder if the government House leader would consider a reference to a committee, whether standing or special, of the report of the Canadian Human Rights Commission? As he knows, there are some pretty important recommendations in that report and it seems to some of us that it should be considered.

May I also ask him, following the questions asked earlier today by the hon. member for Saskatoon East, whether consideration could be given to a day's debate on the north-south situation as recommended by Willi Brandt to all independent parliaments.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, first of all I should like to reply to the three questions which the House leader of the official opposition has asked. We have interrupted the throne speech debate to have more time to deal with bills which have accumulated because of the two elections we have had within a year. My hon. colleague is well aware that this week, thanks to the co-operation of all parties in the House, we have come to an agreement to dispose of the supply bills, which is already a giant step.

On the other hand, there are several bills which are urgent and must be adopted by June 30. That is why I cannot confirm to my colleague that we shall resume and complete the throne speech debate before the end of June. This remains a possibility, although highly improbable, because of the accumulated legislation we must deal with. If everything goes well and if all parties continue to co-operate the way they have this week, we might complete the throne speech debate before our summer recess and hopefully before September 1.

As to the hon. member's second question concerning the allotted days—

An hon. Member: September 1?

Mr. Pinard: Yes, I said September 1, and I hope it will be earlier.

As to the allotted days, I fully agree with my hon. colleague. I have asked my officials to set a number of dates which they will discuss with the House leaders of the other parties. We shall then try to come to an agreement on these dates before the summer recess, if there is one.

The hon. member raised a third question, namely: Should the reports of our foreign delegations be referred to House committees?

I think I mentioned before that that is a suggestion we will take into consideration. We have not decided anything in that regard. We shall have to decide whether consultations will take place and we shall also consult members of the New

Democratic Party. If a decision is reached, I assure my colleague we shall inform him in due course.

In his first question the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre inquired about a committee on the Human Rights Commission report. This is an excellent suggestion worth considering and I shall report to him on it as soon as possible.

We must also keep in mind that the committees are already quite busy with the consideration of the main estimates. We are studying the possibility of striking a special committee to which would be referred the reports of the Commissioner of Official Languages. There should be an agreement on that matter soon. I would say offhand his suggestion is a positive one. I would not commit myself today but I shall give it serious consideration.

The same can be said about his last suggestion of a one-day debate on north-south relations. It is interesting and I shall make our position known about it without delay.

[English]

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, the reference of the hon. gentleman with respect to the joint committee on the Official Languages Act brought to mind something that I wanted to convey to him so I take the opportunity of doing it now. If he would put down that reference, we are prepared to have it go to a joint committee without debate in order to save time.

Mr. Knowles: Madam Speaker, I wonder if a decision on that might be delayed for an hour or two. I had said that we would be willing to agree to that being put, with a limitation of one speaker per party. Now the suggestion comes that there be no speakers. I should like the opportunity to consult and perhaps we can come to an understanding later this afternoon.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): All right.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. DOMM—PARKS CANADA—PROPOSED RELOCATION OF REGIONAL OFFICE FROM CORNWALL TO PETERBOROUGH

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of State, Trade): Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege as a result of a debate which took place in the House yesterday when a question of privilege was raised by the hon. member for Peterborough (Mr. Domm) and in which the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser) joined. Several statements were attributed to me, Madam Speaker, which unfortunately are not correct.

The hon. member for Peterborough stated as reported on page 572 of *Hansard*:

The hon. member for Stormont-Dundas (Mr. Lumley) advised the media the day after that he and the minister—