

tant matter which affects Canada's children. Inasmuch as last spring and for a number of months the health and welfare committee—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, just rule that out of order.

**Madam Speaker:** Order. I cannot allow that as government business. I really cannot.

**Mr. Waddell:** Madam Speaker, I have a question that I would ask the minister to answer. The Canadian people are really angry, even if the Tories are not. They want some answers from the government. My question is this.

**Madam Speaker:** Order. Members should be reminded that there is a time for debating and a time for asking questions about government business. Government business does not deal with debate. I cannot allow debate to take place at this time. Hon. members will understand that if I do, what will happen will be a prolongation of the question period without any proportion of questions allocated to the different parties in this House. I cannot allow that. If members have questions relating to government business that has been announced, they can ask them. Otherwise I will have to rule them out of order.

**Mr. Waddell:** Madam Speaker, my question did relate to that. I will try to phrase it slowly. With regard to the reshuffle of the cabinet, the DREE minister and the minister for external affairs, can we expect legislation dealing with that reshuffle? Second, since DREE is affected, when will there be special legislation with respect to unemployment in the maritime provinces where we are told people are really suffering? Can I get an answer to that question? It is a reasonable question.

**Madam Speaker:** The hon. member will recall the minister said that from now on he will take notice of all questions. He may answer them if he wishes. That is the reason I am not recognizing him after each question. He said he would take notice of them and report globally.

**Mr. Murphy:** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the government House leader. The last minister of DREE promised the hon. member for Joliette and myself that we would have a new RDIA act in the fall of 1981 or the spring of 1982. Does the government intend to keep that commitment? I have no minister to whom I can direct that question.

**Mr. Nielsen:** You have no question.

**Mr. Keeper:** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Privy Council and government House leader. I would like to know if and when the government will be introducing legislation in this House to provide a framework for democratic economic planning so that the problem of unemployment in this country can be attacked in a just and participatory fashion rather than ignored.

### *Business of the House*

**Mr. Riis:** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the government House leader and President of the Privy Council. Prior to rising for Christmas, the minister responsible for DREE indicated to us that he was prepared to reconsider legislation that refers to DREE boundaries in order to bring parts of Canada under DREE agreements where they presently do not exist. My question to the minister is, can we expect this legislation shortly or do we have to wait at least another year for any action?

**Mr. Miller:** Madam Speaker, my question to the government House leader is with regard to Bill C-8, the coastal protection bill. Many fishermen in Atlantic Canada are concerned about that bill. They are already hard hit by lay-offs in the industry. There is considerable concern that any increase in pollution in the area will further decrease the income of fishermen. Can we be assured that Bill C-8 will be put before the House very soon?

**Mrs. Mitchell:** Madam Speaker, will the House leader be presenting legislation following up the report on Canada's children which was studied and presented last spring by the health and welfare committee, dealing particularly with poverty, which is really soul-destroying for many of Canada's children and their parents?

**Mr. Skelly:** Madam Speaker, I would ask the House leader if it is the government's intention to bring forward legislation on the air accident investigation tribunal as recommended by the Dubin commission. Will the government committee that has been struck report to the House of Commons with its recommendations before the government drafts that legislation?

● (1600)

**Mr. Benjamin:** Madam Speaker, the Minister of Transport indicated that legislation would be incorporated establishing a VIA Rail act. It still has not reached the Order Paper. Can the minister tell us if the bill is ready and when it will be called for first reading? When will it be called for debate?

**Mr. Miller:** Madam Speaker, my question to the House leader relates to the task force of the British Columbia fishing industry which has had a mandate to discuss licensing of fishermen. It is a very serious problem. In view of the fact that the Royal Bank of Canada is now consolidating its position on ownership of licences, could the House leader indicate if the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans is anticipating any early action to curtail the ownership of licences in the hands of the Royal Bank of Canada?

**Miss Jewett:** Madam Speaker, I too would like to address a question on House business to the House leader. It concerns a commitment made by the Minister of National Health and Welfare a few months ago to address urgently the matter of senior citizens living in poverty.

In light of the report of the National Council of Welfare today that 41.5 per cent of families headed by females are living below the poverty line, can the House leader tell the