

government order 61 with regard to the Investment Companies Act. We will then deal with government order 36, the Canada-Sweden tax convention. On Wednesday, the business will depend on the progress achieved to that point. On Thursday it has been suggested there might be an opposition day, the subject of which is to be discussed between house leaders.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the House Leader a question in respect of the order of the business. Will he tell the House when the government proposes to proceed with the report stage and third reading of Bill C-175, which has now completed the committee stage?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will recognize the fact that it would be difficult to proceed with it in the House before it is reported back from the committee.

[Translation]

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order related to the motion I introduced earlier in the House.

I want to take this opportunity, when the Minister of Communications and Postmaster General is here, to ask him about the revolving postal strike at Montreal, in view of the fact that the minister is likely to leave for a few days.

Could not the House agree to revert to motions so that the minister could make a statement on this matter?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member suggests that the minister should make a statement on motions. Unanimous consent of the House would, of course, be needed for us to revert to motions, to allow the minister to make that statement.

[English]

I have to ask the House whether there is unanimous agreement to revert to motions to allow the Minister of Communications to make a statement.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: I regret to say—

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege.

Business of the House

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member can go on to his question of privilege when I am through with my remarks on his point of order.

As there is not unanimous consent, unfortunately, the minister will not be allowed to make the statement suggested by the hon. member who is now rising on a question of privilege.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege.

On an issue of public interest or of national urgency, I believe that hon. members expect the government to inform the public, through its representatives, as regards the solutions it proposes. The prevailing national urgency affects 3 or 4 million people in the metropolis, and the minister refuses to make a statement today on motions. Therefore, I would ask him to tell us if he intends to make a statement tomorrow, or later on, because he is often away from the House.

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General and Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I hope to be in a position to make a statement Monday, but we have taken some measures so far and we are getting ready to take others—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I regret to interrupt the minister. He cannot of course make such a statement at this stage. I recognize with the hon. member that the matter he raised is important and urgent. As the House withheld unanimous consent, the statement cannot be made immediately.

[English]

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I give a brief intimation in respect of today's business. This is an opposition day and we have had some discussion on the opposition side of the House as to whether we should make any change in the rules regarding the time of speeches. The consensus was that we should not do so and that the provisions of Standing Order 58(13) should apply. However, in order that the largest possible number of members might be able to take part, we hope there will be an understanding that no one will ask for an extension of time.

● (3:10 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: Is it so agreed?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the last part of the hon. member's comments. Would he repeat the point?