

*Business of the House*

place to be dealt with. In this way it can become law very quickly, in fact, in one day. If that can have some effect upon my friend the government House leader and his colleague, the Minister of Veterans Affairs, to speed up the process with respect to that bill, then I want to assure him of our co-operation in that endeavour.

**Mr. McKenzie:** Madam Speaker, I wish to speak briefly on this piece of veterans legislation. I would like to point out to the government House leader that in a statement by the Minister of Veterans Affairs to members of the standing committee, he stated that in all probability they would table Bill C-28, with minor changes or no changes. A similar bill to Bill C-28 was introduced by the last government. If the minister is making the statement that he is prepared to table the previous bill, I really do not understand why we are having this delay. Everything is right in the bill. It only has to be tabled. We want to make one brief speech and the NDP will make one brief speech. The bill will go to committee and it will be all over in a half a day. Let us do it before we recess at the end of July.

**Mr. Rae:** Madam Speaker, could I ask the government House leader whether it is the intention of the government to bring in an act to repeal the Small Loans Act prior to the end of this session. There have been discussions. We have stated for the record that we are in favour of repeal of the Small Loans Act and that we will be in favour of speedy passage of that bill. I understand that similar points of view have been expressed by the Conservative party. Does the government intend to bring that measure forward before the recess?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Pinard:** Madam Speaker, to alleviate the concerns expressed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre over the veterans legislation, I want to assure him that I will consult the Minister of Veterans Affairs to see if his concerns are founded. Some suggested that the Minister of Veterans Affairs made certain statements before the Royal Canadian Legion and the standing committee, but as I said last week, the minister said the truth and I do not want to come back to the matter. The hon. member who was wondering about the minister's statement before the committee wanted to know if we were going to introduce the bill before the summer recess, at the end of July.

Allow me to say that I never mentioned the end of July. Those are his words. As for the hon. member who has just referred to the Small Loans Act and who has asked me to introduce a bill to repeal it before the recess at the end of July, I would like to say to him that we have still some 20 urgent and important bills which should be passed before the recess. The veterans bill could be included but I do not want at this stage to make any promise about a specific date for the summer recess.

Now if in fact my colleagues would like to know the date of the summer recess, I would suggest the question is quite

premature. The veterans bills are now being drafted. As for the Small Loans Act, the bill is obviously not yet on the order paper. It is a matter which I will take into consideration. As for the other matters mentioned by the House leader of the official opposition, I agree with him that we should complete the discussion during our meeting tomorrow morning before question period.

[*English*]

**Mr. Oberle:** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Privy Council concerning another bill, namely Bill C-26. There have been some discussions. It is a very minor matter, that is to say, ratification of an agreement entered into between Canada and the province of British Columbia, which will require half an hour. I know that the House leader of my party has discussed this matter with him. Could the President of the Privy Council give us some indication today when he intends to bring this bill in so that we can be assured it will be dealt with before the recess?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Pinard:** Madam Speaker, we have indeed to discuss it and I intend to reconsider it with the minister as well as with the parliamentary leaders at the meeting tomorrow.

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[*English*]

**POINTS OF ORDER**

MR. SHIELDS—REPLY OF MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE  
DURING QUESTION PERIOD

**Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca):** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. In the question period today the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Lamontagne), in reply to a question, imputed motives to this side of the House to which I take great exception. To quote him, I believe he said that "it showed the respect for our Armed Forces held by members on this side of the House". We asked a number of questions from this side of the House, and I believe he clearly inferred that we do not respect the Armed Forces.

I would like to say that this is imputing motives to people on this side of the House which I take serious exception to. I was a member of the Armed Forces. I would like him to withdraw that statement or to stand up now and apologize to members of this House, because I think that it was the most deplorable kind of accusation that he could make.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, obviously there are no grounds for a question of privilege. Most of the questions which were asked could well have been put on the order paper and I think that the House should proceed with its regular course of business if there is any real desire for an adjournment before August.