

Business of the House

Schedules A, B, C and D agreed to.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

* * *

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, can the government House leader tell us if we will proceed on Monday with Bill C-18 as planned?

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Yes, Mr. Speaker, followed by Bill C-20. I do not see the Minister of Finance (Mr. Crosbie) in the chamber. Because he had some problems with respect to meetings this afternoon, the minister came in to inform the House as soon as he could of the date of the budget. There was some question about whether that would be appropriate during the course of committee proceedings. The Minister of Finance felt he should do it as quickly as he could. I wish to confirm now that the Mace is on the Table the advice given to the committee this afternoon, that a budget will be brought down on December 11, 1979.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Ouellet: Mr. Speaker, I thank the President of the Privy Council and Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Baker) for informing the House that the government has decided to bring down its budget on December 11. I rose on a point of order earlier this afternoon because I would have appreciated if the Minister of Finance (Mr. Crosbie) had had the courtesy to inform members representing the opposition parties of his intention of announcing in the House the date of the budget. I think that he has somewhat abused parliamentary procedures by defiantly interrupting the debates of the Committee of the Whole, without even waiting for the Chairman to recognize

him, rising decisively to advise us that the budget will be brought down December 11 and leaving forthwith.

All I can say is that Liberals are very happy to see that the government will at last be introducing its budget. We have been expecting it for a long time, and we dare hope it will not be a Santa Claus with an empty bag who will be here just before Christmas, but that this budget will satisfy the needs of working poor, senior citizens and all those who are affected by the undue rise in interest rates and the thoughtless increases in the price of oil in Canada.

[*English*]

Mr. Stevens: As Acting Minister of Finance, I would like to assure the hon. member that we will make the best of the situation the former government left us with. The budget will certainly be a great improvement over the November 16 budget.

Mr. Ouellet: No more excuses. Take your own responsibility.

Mr. Lefebvre: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the government House leader a question. With the budget coming down on December 11, can he assure this House that the budget debate, which I believe takes six days, will be six consecutive days, or can he tell us now what the order of that debate will be?

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm the hon. member's question. In due course he will know.

Mr. Speaker: Shall I call it five o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It being five o'clock, this House stands adjourned until Monday at 2 p.m.

At 4.52 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.