Oral Questions

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the usual question. Can the government House leader tell us what the business is to be up to and including Christmas?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, my plan had been to clear a number of the remaining bills before suggesting an adjournment or prorogation. These include the oil allocation bill, the bill in the name of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) which is to be given first reading tomorrow, and the election expenses bill. It would be desirable if we could complete all these by the end of next week. I certainly would be agreeable to a suggestion concerning additional hours and days of sitting between now and the end of next week.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Témiscamingue on a point of order.

ENERGY

EXPORT OF OIL BY GOLDEN EAGLE CANADA LIMITED TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, my point of order could probably have been raised through a question in a few moments, but I have just received a report.

I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) to a report published in the newspaper *La Presse* that Golden Eagle Canada Limited of Saint-Romuald continues to export oil to the United States at the rate of 2.5 million barrels. Is the minister aware of that situation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Témiscamingue will admit, I am sure, that this is not a point of order, but with the consent of the House the minister might perhaps answer briefly the hon. member's question. And then I shall have to call orders of the day.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, it is with a permit issued by the National Energy Board that such exports may be made. I believe a certain type of oil products produced by the Golden Eagle Canada Limited refinery are surplus to Canada's needs. At the present time the Quebec market cannot absorb all these products, which is why this permit has been granted.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That seems to dispose of the point of order.

[Mr. Speaker.]

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Atkey: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I wonder whether the government House leader would indicate when the government intends to bring on Bill C-176, the protection of privacy bill, which today was referred back to the House by a vote of the Senate Committee on Justice and Constitutional Affairs with an amendment to delete the notice provision.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that the bill has come back. If it does it will be added to the list I have already mentioned.

Mr. Leggatt: Mr. Speaker, I have a similar point of order dealing with the business of the House. I want to ask the government House leader this question. In view of the fact the Minister of Justice appeared before the judicial committee of the other place and apparently persuaded the other place to flout the will of the House, or at least return the bill for reconsideration, is that bill still considered a priority measure and will the Minister of Justice be given another opportunity in this House?

Mr. Speaker: I doubt whether that is a point of order. The hon, member rises on a question of privilege. It seems to me that hon, members—I have taken the liberty to mention this before—from time to time use points of order to ask questions that might have been asked during the question period. I appreciate that some hon, members were not recognized and did not have an opportunity to ask questions, but these are not points of order. No member has referred me to a citation or to a Standing Order in relation to the alleged point of order. The Minister of Justice on a question of privilege.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I think this is a matter of privilege since the hon. member has suggested I have in some way flouted the House of Commons.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lang: As usual, hon. members opposite, in complete ignorance of the facts applaud. The fact of the matter is that I made very clear in the other place that I hoped they would not in any way change the bill because of my strong desire to see the bill pass into law as fast as possible and my concern that it might be delayed as a result of an amendment. Whatever my view of the particular amendment was, I made that clear and did in no way flout the will of the House. I would ask the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, to apologize.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member resume his seat. This whole matter arose, out of a point of order which I ruled was hardly a point of order. The minister rises on a question of privilege. I doubt that we should pursue the matter. The hon. member for New Westminster rises on the question of privilege.

• (1500)

Mr. Leggatt: In dealing with the same question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I would like the Minister of Justice to advise the House clearly whether or not he has changed