

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Parliamentary Secretary to the Hon. Government House Leader could answer the business question today and tell us what the Government intends to bring before the House in the coming days.

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise that tomorrow will be an allotted day. On Monday special provisions have been made for the visit of President Mitterrand of France. We are presently looking at what might be done on Tuesday. I think if negotiations go well, we will be able to tell the House either tomorrow or the next day.

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is also on House business. The Parliamentary Secretary would be aware that yesterday at the House Leaders' meeting I raised the possibility of knowing as soon as possible when we could expect that the Government might be calling Government business for the Private Members' hour. We have a Private Members' Bill in the name of the Hon. Member for Broadview—Greenwood (Ms. McDonald) and I would appreciate very much if the Parliamentary Secretary could tell us when we might expect the vote on that particular Bill.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, that will depend on what day Government business is called. It would appear that if Government business is called on Tuesday, then normally the Private Members' hour would follow and the last hour of debate, I believe, on the Hon. Members' Bill would take place then and the vote would proceed that evening.

At this point I am not able to suggest whether or not Tuesday will be an allotted day or a day for Government business. However, I appreciate that the Hon. Member and other committee members have business to do, and as soon as we know we will certainly communicate with the Hon. Member's House Leader's office.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, I would like to pursue this discussion on House business. I believe I have to say, and all Members will recognize, that the answer which has been given to us is absolutely useless. We all know it is an allotted day tomorrow. We all know the President of France is coming next Monday. Now we are being told that the Government does not know what it is going to do Tuesday or Wednesday. In fact, we are receiving a non-answer. I would like us to get back to the tradition of the Government giving this House its agenda for a week, which has been the practice in the past.

● (1510)

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of my hon. colleague. At the present time, there are certain matters

Privilege—Mr. Andre

that we are discussing and negotiating. We hoped to have heard from my colleague's office with respect to certain matters this afternoon. I do not wish to negotiate House business on the floor of the House. We are certainly prepared to meet with representatives of both Parties to discuss these matters just as soon as they are in a position to advise us of their views.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will hear, first of all, from the Hon. Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre) on a question of privilege, followed by the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides (Mr. Garneau), again on a question of privilege, following which the Chair shall hear from the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan (Mr. Angus).

* * *

PRIVILEGE

ALLEGED BREACH OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I rise on this question of privilege with some regret, but out of a feeling that it is necessary to address the issue, as it is an issue that goes to the fundamental rights, not just of myself as a Member of Parliament and a cabinet Minister but of all Members of Parliament.

The implication in the question raised by the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell), and it was a direct implication, an accusation, is that because a member of my riding association is an employee of Amoco Canada, I either might be or am in conflict of interest in terms of acting in any way in respect of the potential takeover of Dome by Amoco Canada.

Let me indicate the dilemma for me, Mr. Speaker, and for every Member of the House, if that implication is allowed to stand unchallenged. Mr. Sherrold Moore is guilty only of being a concerned citizen, a citizen who participates in the political process by giving voluntarily of his time to our Party, both at the provincial and federal levels. That is his only sin, so to speak. It is an activity that all Members of this House depend upon in order to maintain our associations. It is absolutely vital to the success of our political Parties and to the political system in which we function.

I would not be surprised, Mr. Speaker, if some members of my association worked for Dome. I know that has been true in the past. I know there is at least one other employee in my association who works for Amoco. I have others in my association who work for other oil companies.

The implication, Mr. Speaker, that I would be in conflict of interest when it comes to the energy sector because there are volunteers working for my riding association who are employed in that sector is one that goes to the root of our democratic process, and it is one that must not be allowed to stand.