

Business of the House

● (1500)

TOURISM**GAS PRICE INCREASE—EFFECTS ON AMERICAN TOURISTS**

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Tourism.

The Canadian Automobile Association maintains that increasing the price of gas considerably reduces the number of American tourists coming to Canada. The Tourist Industry Association of Canada has pointed out that a 1 per cent increase in the tax on gas means 200,000 fewer American tourists. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister give the House the assurance that after the oil pact, the tourist industry will not be hit by another increase in the price of gas, which would have a disastrous effect on the industry?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of State (Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for his question. [English]

In reply to that question I would simply say that we in the Government do not believe that factors like gasoline prices, taxes on alcohol, and taxes on accommodation should be looked at separately. Instead, they should be reviewed in the context of an over-all strategy or plan for the industry. We are approaching these individual questions in that manner. For example, as the Hon. Member will know, we recently released a major consultative strategy paper to consult with the industry, with our colleagues in the provinces and the public at large, so that each individual question, such as taxes of the sort he referred to, can be viewed in the context of the whole industry.

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CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions, with the exception of one, presented by Hon. Members on Tuesday, April 2, 1985 meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

The petition presented by the Hon. Member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Scott) does not meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**WEEKLY STATEMENT**

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Government House Leader what business we can expect for the House of Commons when we return after the Easter break.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to continue with the business we

have been considering prior to today, at least for Monday, when we return on April 15. I suggest that we consider Bill C-19 relating to the reorganization of Bell Canada, and if we make progress on that legislation we would move on to the Bill dealing with the Meat Inspection Act which will be the next item on the legislative timetable.

There will be other legislation introduced today relating to the equalization payments being made to provinces. Accordingly, I want to have an opportunity to discuss House business with the Opposition Parties to see what progress we can make in terms of expediting these important items of legislation, such as the one that will be introduced later today by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson).

Subject to further consultation, that will be the business at least for April 15. I will be contacting Opposition House Leaders about business for the rest of that week so that we will be fully occupied.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes) on a question of House business?

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, the House Leader has mentioned future consultations. I think the House Leader will know that on Monday of this week there was an article in *The Toronto Star* which was based on a parliamentary committee report which has not yet been presented to the House. There is an implication in that report that a Liberal Member of Parliament provided it to the journalists. The House Leader would properly appreciate that that brings many of the processes of the House into question—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: With great respect, would the Hon. Member relate this to the question of House business?

Mr. Hawkes: The House Leader mentioned that he was having consultations. In those consultations, would he bring up that matter with the House Leaders of the other two Parties?

Mr. Speaker: Order. If the Member has a question of privilege which he wishes to raise, he should raise it as a question of privilege.

Mr. Gauthier: You cannot bootleg like that.

Mr. Speaker: Bootlegging has come up as an issue again today. The Hon. Member may have a question of privilege and he may wish to raise it as a question of privilege, but such a claim is not a matter for discussion about House business, I suggest with respect.