

Labour Conditions

Mr. Cullen: I am proud to represent the department. In future I will answer questions, no matter how hon. members opposite address me. I had to make this representation on behalf of the 25,000 public servants I am proud to represent.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the point of order raised by the hon. minister, I wonder if he would be less tender if we referred to him as the minister of employment and immigration responsible for unemployment?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. Being no longer a minister, no one can accuse me of being sensitive on this issue. When I was a minister, I was attacked on many occasions. I never resented that; it was what I expected. I am sitting here, as a member of parliament, listening to the question period and it seems to me it is courteous for members to address ministers by their official titles. This is creating a very bad impression throughout the country. I hope I will not be in a position of having to tell members opposite that they are being dishonourable.

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, with regard to this rather frivolous point of order raised by the minister, I merely ask: Is it out of order to call a spade a shovel in this House?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Northumberland-Durham is asking me if it is in fact out of order. I am not altogether certain. It may well be. I hesitated to intervene. I am aware that this has happened several times in the past and I wondered if it would be raised in any way. Perhaps I ought to examine the question and make a definitive expression as to whether it is out of order to make that kind of misdescription of a minister when asking a question. I really do not know. Now that the hon. member has asked me to examine the question, perhaps I should, to see whether it is unparliamentary language. I do not know. I will take a look at it and see.

[Later:]

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I will not be too long. I just want to register my concern about the sensitivity of the hon. Minister of Employment and Immigration whom I have shadowed for a considerable time. I would ask him to keep in mind the old statement: If you cannot stand the heat, get out of the kitchen. As a result of his activities in the House during the past couple of days, all I can say is that he should get out of the kitchen, because now he can be called one of the biggest cry babies who sit on the treasury benches.

* * *

Mr. Ellis: Mr. Speaker, my very brief point of order is with regard to a scurrilous Canadian Press article which appeared in many metropolitan newspapers today. This article would seem to indicate that the people of Belleville are racists and anti-French. This is a totally untrue picture of life in Belleville. It affects my ability to fairly represent these people. I want to clear the record and disavow any such prejudices.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Alexander.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the government House leader concerning the business of the House. On other occasions we have discussed the legislation he was proposing to bring forward. Can he confirm today the order in which legislation will be brought forward when the House has concluded its consideration of Bill C-11?

While he is doing so, I wonder if he could tell the House about the pipeline legislation, which has been the subject of questions in the House, and also the contracts that are important to Canadian industries? What is the government's intention with respect to introducing the pipeline legislation into the House? Is it the intention of the government to introduce that bill into the House prior to the Christmas adjournment? If the answer is yes, I would appreciate receiving that answer. If the answer is no, can the government tell us when that piece of legislation will be coming forth, so that those interested in it can study it after it has been printed?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, in connection with the pipeline legislation, it was my expectation that the legislation would be introduced prior to the Christmas break. Now there is no possibility for it to be passed. The intervening period would give all of us more time to work on what is a very complex piece of legislation. Certainly, it is the intention to bring in the legislation immediately upon the resumption of the House in January of next year.

The list of business is the same as was indicated last Thursday when the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton asked the question. I should add that if the elections bill now in committee comes out, it is my intention to call it as a priority item.

Also, I should like to refer to a comment made by the right hon. member for Prince Albert yesterday with respect to a debate on foreign affairs. Is there any way to accelerate the item now before the House, and the elections bill, in order to have a day or so on that subject before the Christmas adjournment? I put that forth as a possibility.

● (1512)

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): I think we are making progress, Mr. Speaker, and I hope the government will take it upon itself to set aside the period of time it has in mind after the normal discussions have taken place with respect to a very important debate on that matter. But that is something we can discuss, as time goes on, in the usual co-operative way.

I want to raise one other important matter with respect to the business of the House. The hon. member for Eglinton touched upon it. I know people will remember that the hon. member for Eglinton, aided by others both on the government side and on this side of the House of Commons, worked hard and long to bring the electronic *Hansard* and television into the House of Commons, and as a result of that it was the hope