

Business of the House

I wish to give my condolences to his wife, his children, his friends and his constituents. He represented his constituents and Canada well.

Mr. Jim Peterson (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, in May 1980 Prime Minister Trudeau appointed a task force to look into the issue of regulatory reform in Canada.

I had the honour of being the chairperson of that task force and Chuck Cook was one of the Conservative members. Chuck Cook was always constructive. He worked hard. He worked very precisely. He had a finely tuned mind when it came to looking at the issues.

What I remember most was the way he focused in and said: "I am not going to accept this report", and this was in the final days, "unless we get equality for western representation on our national institutions." CBC, the transport board, CRTC and things like this are what he fought for. He fought for them strongly and effectively.

Chuck was a strong advocate for what he believed in. Of course, he was right and he made his imprint. I was happy to work with Chuck and also to know his wife, Dale, who was a very supportive, decent, kind person. I know that Dale will miss him greatly. We will miss him here.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I can ask a question of the government House leader with regard to the business for tomorrow.

While the government House leader is on his feet, can he indicate what arrangements have been made with regard to the special committee relating to the North American free trade agreement, which is to sit and travel the country?

Also, I wonder if he can indicate to the House perhaps something to do with his own personal plans. Does he intend to stay in the great constituency of Calgary Centre in the months ahead?

An hon. member: In the leadership.

Mr. Speaker: I would point out that the hon. minister does not really have to answer that if he does not wish to.

• (1535)

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): The hon. minister is trembling in his boots at the thought of an opponent who thinks there are votes to be gained by giving out T-shirts in Cape Breton—at least votes in Calgary to be gained.

Hopefully this afternoon we will get around to second reading of Bill C-101, the labour code act, and then get on to Bill C-109. It would be nice to get to second reading on that and get it to committee. It is an issue upon which I think there is a fair degree of unanimity in the House.

On Friday we would like to complete report stage and third reading of Bill C-99, the Small Businesses Loans Act, which again is anticipated in many quarters and then get on to Bill C-73, the Canada Post Act.

As you know, the House adjourns tomorrow for one week. At this point I am not entirely certain what the business for Monday, March 8 will be but I will commit to both opposition parties to let them know by the middle of next week what the business will be for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the first week back.

In terms of a committee study of the legislation related to the North American free trade agreement, we are certainly favourably disposed toward getting the legislation to a committee as soon as possible so it can organize and arrange for hearings and witnesses, both here in Ottawa and in other parts of the country. Perhaps in discussions later this afternoon or tomorrow we can firm up plans in that regard. I would rather do that before we complete second reading, simply because scheduling of second reading and the nature of the debate we will have is such that if everything is done sequentially it may be some time before we can get the material to committee for proper study.

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): In the estimates of the Ministry of Transport, reference is made to legislation dealing with drug testing of employees. The document suggested it would be tabled and receive Royal Assent in 1993.