

Business of the House

happy to join in a lobby for an earlier summer adjournment.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have had the pleasure—perhaps I should correct that word of “opportunity”—of reading the list which has been placed before us by the President of the Privy Council. The government has the assurance of this party that, within the limits of our capacity and our right to discharge our responsibility as Her Majesty’s Loyal Opposition, we will co-operate with the government in attempting to meet, as best we can, the schedule to deal with these legislative proposals within the time named. We do not however intend to be in any sense deficient in doing those things which as an opposition we have to do in the discharge of those responsibilities. I think I should make that quite plain, and I do so in no controversial spirit at all.

It is a fact that this has been an unusual session. There is the possibility of our having two budgets, at least time has been provided by the president of the Privy Council for this eventuality. There are a number of legislative proposals—and I am not going to be controversial about this either—which have been left over, but might well have been concluded in the normal course of events if the election had not been held. That was of course the right of the government.

If we can get all these things done by June 27, that is fine. If we have to stay a little longer, I and my colleagues will be very regretful, but we do not intend to be delinquent in the discharge of our responsibilities.

It is my hope that we can work out arrangements for business of the house. For today, for example, I am quite happy to propose that the legislation now before the house be completed today. This estate tax amendment legislation has had a great deal of consideration, and there has been an exceedingly good opportunity for debate. It has been canvassed from all sides of the house. I for one on behalf of this party would agree to an order, if the house is agreeable, to complete second reading, and go through the committee stage and third reading by staying today to complete this bill.

I would refer also to some of the other legislation before the house. For example I have in mind the Criminal Code amendment legislation. I understand from my colleagues who will be serving on the standing committee that when that measure goes to the standing committee it should not be impossible to work out an agreement, through consultation,

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

as to the length of time with which the committee should be seized of that bill. Once it has been before the standing committee, and the government is ready to report the bill, we will know what amendments there are.

In accordance with our views as expressed earlier in this house, once through the usual consultative processes among the house leaders we know what will be involved and what amendments will be brought back to the house we can decide without inhibition what period of time will be required at the report stage in the house.

Finally, before I sit down may I suggest that when we look at the bills we have been through, and look at the peripatetic progress that has been made, while I realize that members of the government must from time to time be away from this house—and I would not want to inhibit their right—under such circumstances it would facilitate the progress of legislation in the house, and other measures placed before us by the government, if when a measure was initiated and brought into the house for debate, the debate could be completed without having to suspend it, as has happened from time to time, and resume it at a later date. I think that more orderly and reasonable progress could be made if this were done. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to co-operate and we hope the target dates will be achieved. We wish the government success in at least reaching those target dates.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, like the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin), I wish to thank the government house leader for having supplied us with a copy of the memorandum which he was using when he made his remarks. We believe it is very useful for us to know what legislation the government has in mind for the balance of the session. We also think it is useful and helpful to have a program so far as the calendar is concerned. I agree with the hon. member for Peace River that the important thing for this parliament to do is attend to its business even if we have to stay here, but we think it is a good idea to try and plan our time so we will get the important business done within reasonable time.

I should like to congratulate the government house leader upon including in the time schedule the necessary days for a budget presentation. He had to protect himself with respect to that matter, but we feel, because the