

*Business of the House*

budget debate tomorrow and to carry it into next week for the appropriate number of days. In order to allow us to plan, would he give us the order of his priorities following the budget debate?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, first I want to say that today we will continue with the bill which would authorize additional borrowing authority, to be followed by the old age security legislation, and then the child credit benefits legislation. The budget will be presented tonight, and the debate will continue on Friday and on Monday, when the first vote will take place. I indicated informally to the hon. member earlier that it was my intention to continue the budget debate without interruption, but if the child benefits legislation is not passed, it might be necessary on Tuesday to interrupt the debate in order to deal with that in committee of the whole. However, that is not certain yet.

I have not cast my attention beyond the budget debate, but I highlight as one of the main items I would like to bring forward early, in line with requests made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), the legislation affecting pensions in the public service. There is also the health resources fund legislation to be considered. By that time I hope to have on the order paper the bill relating to the Post Office. That would certainly be high on my list, but I would prefer to give a more precise indication next week.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for his remarks. Some comments have been made with respect to the budget debate this evening. During the course of the day I wonder if the Deputy Prime Minister might give some consideration to making the text of the speech of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) available to members of parliament as the Minister of Finance begins his speech, so that we can follow that speech carefully.

**An hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** I see that there is some support on the other side of the House for that proposition. This would enable the media to deal with the matter appropriately from the point of view of their operations outside, because I understand there has been an embargo placed on anything regarding the minister's speech until 8.30 p.m. I can understand that the privileges of parliament should not be infringed, but in these circumstances it seems to me that it would be appropriate for the Deputy Prime Minister to consider, if the media can begin dealing with the budget, whether members of parliament should have copies of the speech on their desks so that it can be followed by them. I would be very grateful if my hon. friend would consider that, in order to assist us and the public in understanding what is in the budget, if indeed there is anything in the budget.

**Mr. MacEachen:** With respect to the arrangements for the media I understand that there is an embargo on media reports of the budget statement until 8.30. That seems reasonable, because it is logical to provide the minister an opportunity to make his budget statement before interpretations and reports

[Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton).]

of the budget statement. I think it is reasonable to have an embargo until 8.30.

I will draw to the attention of the minister the matter of whether he could make copies of his speech available earlier. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) and the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) have always had copies of budget speeches as ministers of finance have read them. I have always felt discriminated against because, as a minister, I have never had copies provided to me the way they have been provided to the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the New Democratic Party.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, my heart bleeds for my hon. friend, but I thank him for his cooperation. I hope he will consider having the speech available at least for members of parliament.

I wonder if this morning the cabinet considered the possibility of fixing a date by which time we might begin the Christmas adjournment, if we are to have one this year, and how long it might be. If that was dealt with and if we knew where we were heading, I think it might help expedite business. That, coupled with an announcement regarding business after the budget, would help parliament expedite its work, which we always want to do.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I did not have an opportunity, as I had hoped, to discuss with my colleagues this morning the time for the Christmas adjournment. I can assure the hon. member that it is my intention to provide for a Christmas adjournment, and I would appreciate any comments hon. members might have as to the length of that adjournment.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, what I have to say does not affect the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. MacEachen), but I know the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is a family man, and those of us who are do like to make plans, believe it or not. Would the Deputy Prime Minister consult the gentleman on his left and decide early on a fixed date so that we will all know where we stand?

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker—

**An hon. Member:** Stanley said no.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, if I were taking part in the discussion which has just taken place, I would do so on behalf of all the grandparents in this place. We too have rights.

I would like to have a word with the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. MacEachen) about the business for today. He announced that we would deal first with Bill C-7, on which there is a time limit, and that then we would move to Bill C-5. Bill C-7 is the bill respecting borrowing authority, and Bill C-5 is the old age security bill. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that you will permit me to make the point that under Bill C-5 there is a provision for the