

announced, will be budget night. The next day and the one after that will be the first two days of the budget debate as such, and it is too early yet to say whether or not we will suspend the debate next Friday. Again I repeat, because I want it to be clear, this is unless it is decided otherwise and on the hypothesis that the motion in the name of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Chrétien) is approved by 11 a.m. tomorrow.

[English]

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, I am a little surprised at the designation today at three o'clock of an opposition day tomorrow, a day which begins at eleven o'clock in the morning. Frankly, I think that is a bad practice. I want you to know this, Madam Speaker—I will not debate this with other members of the House—that there was a discussion the other day at a House leaders' meeting, at the normal period of time. There was no House leaders' meeting this morning; I was not called and I have a note from the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre that he was not called for a House leaders' meeting today at the normal time of 9.30 a.m. Quite frankly, I think this is a very bad parliamentary practice. I have no objection at all, and I make it clear, to having an allotted day on Monday; that would have been ample notice for us.

I have just reviewed my own minutes of the House leaders' meeting which was held on October 22 and I see that no definite date was mentioned. The President of the Privy Council said, and I quote my minutes:

Pinard said he was considering one before the budget—which is set for next Tuesday, October 28. Baker will ask the usual House business on Thursday.

I have asked the usual House business question now and I am told we will have two allotted days, one of them on Friday, which is tomorrow. Will the President of the Privy Council consider what he has done? Would he consider, in the interests of fairness—and if he would not, would you, Madam Speaker, consider in the interests of fairness—forgetting about an allotted day tomorrow and having the next allotted day on Monday, which would give us reasonable time to prepare? I think that if this practice continues in the face of motions such as we have today, the relationship that has prevailed in Parliament will break down.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

● (1510)

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** I still have the floor, so sit down.

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

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Quite frankly, I think it is bad practice, and the President of the Privy Council had better reconsider this decision.

**Mr. Knowles:** Madam Speaker, I wonder if the question of designating the two opposition days could be left open to further negotiation. I say quite openly that the President of the Privy Council indicated to us—

*Business of the House*

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Perhaps.

**Mr. Knowles:**—certainly to me—

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** No, he did not.

**Mr. Knowles:** Just a minute.

**An hon. Member:** That was in your caucus, Stanley.

**Mr. Knowles:** The President of the Privy Council indicated that either Friday or Monday would be an opposition day and that today he would tell us which one.

**An hon. Member:** "Might" be.

**Mr. Knowles:** But there was never any suggestion that both of them would be opposition days. Therefore, I wonder if we could negotiate this matter a little further. Why not bring on the Post Office Crown corporation bill tomorrow?

**An hon. Member:** What about the constitution?

[Translation]

**Mr. Pinard:** Madam Speaker, I am pleased to agree to my colleagues' request. There has been a misunderstanding, we do not have the same minutes. Tomorrow we will gladly proceed with consideration of Bill C-42. Monday and Tuesday afternoon will be opposition days. If we have finished with Bill C-42, we will begin consideration of the freedom of information bill before the budget speech Tuesday evening. I regret this misunderstanding. I thought I had offered both days, but since we want to be flexible, as always, and with the agreement of my colleagues, we will consider Bill C-42 tomorrow, once again provided we have disposed by 11 a.m. tomorrow of the motion in the name of the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development (Mr. Chrétien).

[English]

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, I just want to ask the government House leader, if he had a free day he could play with like that, why is he so anxious to close the debate at one o'clock tomorrow morning? What kind of games is he playing?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

TELEVISIONING OF PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** While we are on the subject, because this is important, Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister refused to answer a question; he ducked the question about the televising of the committee proceedings of the House of Commons.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** That is what happened in the course of the question period, and anyone with half an eye could see it. Is the government House leader prepared to take