

Business of the House

place. Several times, including today, the Minister of Finance, in almost a fit of temper, said that we cannot do all the fine things the government has in mind until the opposition quits dragging on the tax bills. There has been no dragging on the tax bills because they have not been called.

The government House leader has said today that the tax bills will be called for Monday, and if he means that, I hope that he will say so, that we will start the tax bills at three o'clock on Monday and stay with them until they are finished. Some of us who have been around the House for a while are accustomed to the schedule being changed, but some of my new colleagues think that we are crazy in jumping around the way we do from day to day. I believe that they are right, and I suspect that some of the ministers have been told the same thing. I ask the government to not play it both ways, by telling us that we will not get any good legislation—and I am still looking for it—until we get away from the tax bills and then not calling the tax bills.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): I thank my friend, Mr. Speaker, for his neighbourly advice. We do intend to call the tax bills next week and to continue with those bills along the line which the Minister of Finance indicated was important to him from the point of view of the budget. I recognize the difficulty with respect to shifting, but sometimes that is necessary. I do not like it any more than the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, and I will try to avoid it as much as possible.

I must say, though, that I am impressed with what has happened with Bill C-6. It has gone to committee. We have dealt with the Post Office Act. I think we are starting on the right foot, and I would like to see it continue.

With respect to the veterans bill, I cannot give the hon. member any different information than what I gave him last week. I think that I attempted to tell him that it was a matter which we regard as important as well. I shall certainly bear in mind his representations in the spirit in which he presented them.

Mr. Knowles: Do something before November 11.

[Translation]

Mr. Lachance: Mr. Speaker, considering the unanimous wish expressed by the spokesmen for the opposition on Bill C-15, the freedom of information bill, and given the fact that the minister himself said that he hoped that bill will be enacted before Christmas, and considering the litany of bills he put on the legislative menu for next week, before proceeding with the study of Bill C-15 could I call on him to be so kind as to put that Bill C-15 on the priority list so that it can be referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, so that the necessary comments on it can be made and so that it comes back eventually before the House to be passed before Christmas?

[Mr. Knowles.]

[English]

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I too am very interested in that bill, and I am glad to see that the hon. member is also interested. I do need some agreement from the other side with respect to the progress in legislation. I am prepared to sit down and discuss any proposals in dealing with these tax bills and other bills with the other side through the usual channels, so that we can allocate a certain amount of time upon which we all agree to those bills. I am quite open on that matter.

I should alert hon. members to the fact that there is a reference on the order paper now dealing with the nuclear investigation committee. There were four select committees announced in the Speech from the Throne on subjects which I think will be of interest to all hon. members. When we get down to discussing these matters, I would like to discuss a fixed time within which we might consider them, giving a reasonable time for debate so that the committees of the House can get working as well. I thank the hon. member for his suggestion.

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POINT OF ORDER

MR. MACKAY—HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS—CLARIFICATION OF ANSWER DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, earlier in the week when being questioned by the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong) on the matter of home insulation, I indicated to him in my answer that home insulation had recently been classified under the Hazardous Products Act. I should have been more accurate and for the record I would like to inform the House that it was cellulose insulation which has recently been classified under the Hazardous Products Act.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. RODRIGUEZ—PROCEEDINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS—CLARIFICATION BY MINISTER

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, while I was away yesterday there was a point of privilege raised by an hon. member due to a misapprehension. At no time have I refused to appear before the House of Commons finance committee or refused to appear before the committee if I were summoned, before the governor of the Bank of Canada. The finance committee has never asked me to appear before Governor Bouey.

I had my representative tell the finance committee that in my view it would be better if Governor Bouey appeared first. It was the governor's request that he appear before the committee first; he was anxious to have the matter go forward because he felt that any delay would have a bad effect on the