

the past. If we were to differ from that course we would need the consent of the House.

The other difficulty we face is that, obviously, before two o'clock there had been some discussion about one aspect of the rule with regard to whether or not consent would be withheld or given to the presentation of the motion. As often is the case in the eyes of members of the House—and, I am sure, in the eyes of many others—the two are equated. The two are considered to be synonymous, the consent for the putting of the question and the consent for the passage of the motion. In fact, they are two very separate questions.

There has always been a general impression that consenting to the putting of a motion to the House is thereby agreeing to the passage of the motion immediately without debate. That is not the case and never has been. It is a difficulty that we face every day in the interpretation of this rule, and it is a difficulty that has even, it seems to me, introduced itself into a discussion between two members—who have each taken I am sure, quite righteously, entirely different interpretations—which they had before the presentation of this motion. Surely it would be helpful even to those kinds of conflicts if we could clarify some of the many difficulties which face us in this Standing Order.

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## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

### WEEKLY STATEMENT

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, it being Thursday, it has been the tradition that a question be placed, under a point of order, before we go into routine business, as to what the government's intention is with respect to the business for the next week. I am sure that I could come up with some speculation as to what it may be, but it would be better to hear it out of the mouth of the government House leader, who is probably now giving some undertakings or obtaining them.

I would ask the government House leader if he would tell the House what the government's intention are with respect to business during the course of the next week. It is Thursday, the government House leader is back from Rome, over his jet lag and able to consider the business of the House, I am sure. Possibly he could stand up and tell us what he has in mind for the next week.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot say what the business is today until I have reached motions, when I want to have a discussion with the hon. gentlemen opposite with respect to the business today. Quite apart from the disposition which may be reached with respect to the borrowing authority bill, I want to indicate that the Old Age Security Act, the child benefits act, and the Health Resources Fund Act will be the next package of legislative items. Of course, as my hon. friend realizes, we have already agreed that Monday shall be the final day for debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

## Introduction of Bills

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

#### CRIMINAL CODE

##### TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH PROVINCES ON FIREARMS CONTROL

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), and further to my reply in this House last Friday to a question by the hon. member for Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Milne) on the government's plans concerning the implementation of the gun control legislation, I would like to table, in both official languages, letters and attachments which I sent recently to all my provincial colleagues responsible for the enforcement of the Criminal Code and, as well, to the two territorial commissioners, reviewing arrangements for Canada's first firearms amnesty to be held from November 1 to 30, 1978.

I might also indicate that I have made that correspondence available to my critics in the opposition parties.

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#### FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

##### TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH NEWFOUNDLAND ON SHARED COST PROGRAMS

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to table pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), copies in both official languages of correspondence with Premier Moores of Newfoundland concerning publicity of shared cost programs.

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#### STATUTE LAW (SUPERANNUATION) AMENDMENT ACT, 1978

##### MEASURE TO CHANGE RETIREMENT BENEFIT PROVISIONS

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (for the President of the Treasury Board)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-12, to amend the Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act, the Public Service Superannuation Act, the Canadian Forces Superannuation Act, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superannuation Act and the Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.