

conference—and I have examined the itinerary in some detail—involve the environment, Canadian-American relations; finance, Canadian-American relations; and energy, Canadian-American relations. As the energy critic for our party, I am not invited to attend, even though very important questions came up in the House today.

The delegation consists of seven senators and they are going by chartered jet from here to the conference. It seems to me that this is a great cost to the Canadian taxpayers because we as members have the privilege of an allotted number of flights. This delegation could fly to the west coast and take another flight from there.

As a member of the House of Commons, I object because this infringes on my privileges as a member and because, instead of a proper delegation representing Canada, it is a delegation, as I have said, of senators who do not do anything with respect to—

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

**Mr. Waddell:**—these matters and they have no responsibilities. I am raising a serious matter of privilege, Madam Speaker.

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

**Mr. Waddell:** I note that members of the Liberal party and the Conservative party are prepared not only to subsidize these senators to enable them to attend, but to fly them there in a chartered jet. I think that it is a shame for the Canadian taxpayer and that it infringes on my privileges as a member of the House of Commons.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** There is not a dry eye in the House, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** I am not quite sure whether I can accept the question of privilege raised by the hon. member. It seems to me that the formation of delegations to meetings of inter-parliamentary associations is a matter that is dealt with among the members, and I am sure that the New Democratic Party had a representative at the meeting when that particular delegation was decided upon. I suppose that the hon. member is entitled to raise some complaint in the House, but I am not sure that it should be addressed to the House.

Would the hon. member please address himself, rather than to the House, to the whips or committees which have the responsibility of forming these delegations. The hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker).

**Mr. Waddell:** Madam Speaker, I understand that—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Madam Speaker:** I have given the floor to the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton.

*Business of the House*

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

WEEKLY STATEMENT

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, I was worried that the government House leader would not hear me over the din coming from the end of the chamber. I wonder if I could ask the House business question today. Could the President of the Privy Council give us some indication what we will be dealing with later this week and, if possible, into next week?

● (1510)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Pinard:** Madam Speaker, as was announced yesterday we will proceed today with the consideration of the bill to revise the Bank Act. We will interrupt it tomorrow to study legislation to promote public safety in the transportation of dangerous goods and, if possible, legislation to implement the International Convention for Safe Containers, that is Bills C-18 and C-21. Next Monday, as all members know, the Prime Minister of Japan will address Parliament in this House. Question period will therefore begin at 4.30, following which we will resume consideration of the bank legislation. I hope that by the end of next week we will be able to complete our consideration of bills on the Small Businesses Loans Act, the Employment Tax Credit Act and the Federal Business Development Bank Act.

I also intend to allot an opposition day next week. I will specify the exact day later on after consultation with the House leaders of both opposition parties, but there will definitely be an opposition day next week.

[*English*]

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, I want to thank the President of the Privy Council for that information. A couple of questions arise with respect to House business. The first is the continuation of the throne speech debate. Now that we are consider allotted days, would the minister consider finishing off the throne speech debate? A number of members want to speak. I am particularly interested in hearing a speech to be made by the hon. member for Joliette and I know that others in the House want to have the opportunity to make a contribution.

The other matter has to do with the question of allotted days. In the past, a practice has been developed whereby a schedule of allotted days might be submitted to the leader of the government for discussion. If that is agreeable to him, I will be glad to prepare a schedule.

Last week I asked the minister about the possibility of a reference that would permit the parliamentary delegations that go out across the country—and indeed across the world from time to time—to report to the appropriate standing committee. Has the minister considered that? Perhaps he has not had time to do so but I would appreciate it if he would. I undertake that there would be no debate with respect to this matter.