

Business of the House

be some way to accommodate those members who must travel a considerable distance as well as the government's desire to proceed with House business in an orderly way.

I would also like to know the government House leader's position on bringing forward the amendment to the Canadian Human Rights Act which was promised in the throne speech. This amendment hopefully would end discrimination against the handicapped. This is a matter of considerable importance, especially during this International Year of the Disabled. We are getting close to the end of the year and I had hoped to see that amendment come forward. Although there is a great deal of business on the Order Paper, I do not think we should allow those things to interfere with a commitment made by the government in the Speech from the Throne.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, on those two matters—the Human Rights Act amendment and the decision on the Remembrance Day recess—I ask that the House leader defer a decision pending further discussion privately.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, regarding the last part of what the hon. member has just said, I will consider his suggestion and see what can be done. Regarding the first few words said by my hon. colleague, the flexibility and diplomacy he has demonstrated were doubtless inherited from his illustrious predecessor, and I am quite willing to postpone making a definite decision at this time to consider his request regarding Remembrance Day. I am told that although it is the custom in Quebec to celebrate this occasion on the preceding Sunday, the situation may be different in other parts of the country, and I think the members on the opposite side were ill-advised to take offence because I mentioned the practice followed in Quebec. Now I myself have not commented on the practice followed in other parts of the country. I am prepared to look into this.

Perhaps this debate is purely academic—the budget may be brought down on November 3. There is still a possibility that if the budget is not brought down on November 3 but on the 10th, we shall have to deal with the matter. I intend to look into this and see whether the House could extend its sitting hours at other times, or whether we should apply the Standing Orders, but I do not intend to make any firm commitment at this time that I shall accede to the wishes expressed by my colleague and by the member for Yukon and discuss the matter. I am quite willing, but I do not want to give the impression that the budget will not be brought down on November 10.

[English]

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Madam Speaker, I also want to ask the government House leader about the legislative intentions of the government with respect to the Human Rights Act amendment. I have, in fact, spoken with the Minister of Justice and indicated to him my party's concern about this legislation and the amendment to the Canadian Human Rights Act promised in the Speech from the Throne.

I attempted to be recognized today to ask the Minister of Justice when this legislation would be forthcoming. I was unable to get recognition—I make no comment on that—but I think the government House leader, in planning House business, can rest assured that we in this party are interested in the expeditious passage of that amendment which would put disabled persons in Canada under the Canadian Human Rights Act under the jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission.

The government House leader should take seriously, in this International Year of the Disabled, the recommendations of the all-party committee of this House to bring forward this amendment, to deal not only with discrimination practised against the physically handicapped with respect to goods, services, facilities and accommodation, but to expand that amendment to include those who are mentally handicapped. I am sure the hon. gentleman's parliamentary secretary could clearly advise him on the content of the report.

We in this party, as I am sure all members of this House, have an interest in the expeditious passage of these amendments, especially during this Year of the Disabled. I hope the House leader will make serious attempts to bring this matter forward at an early date.

Mr. Kempling: Madam Speaker, a very short intervention on the matter of November 11. The minister should be aware that every country which was involved on the allied side in World War II observes November 11 as a national holiday. He should be aware of that, and to suggest that we in this Parliament will not recognize it as a national holiday is a departure. Every year since I have been here—this is my tenth year—we have recognized Remembrance Day on November 11, and I urge the minister to reconsider that fact when he is reconsidering the intervention of the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain.

● (1520)

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, I would not like the people of this country to be misled by the hon. gentleman, who obviously was not in the House or, if he was in the House, was sleeping as usual.

Mr. Siddon: That is an insult.

Mr. Pinard: What I said was that on November 11 the House in any case will celebrate that very important day and that the House of Commons will not sit, as provided for by the Standing Orders. That is exactly what I said, and I deplore the fact that the hon. gentleman did not understand or did not want to understand what I said very clearly, which was that in any case on November 11 the House of Commons will not sit.

Mr. McKenzie: Madam Speaker, dealing with House business, I wish to make a plea to the government House leader with respect to changing the budget date. There are other days in the month of November. Surely to goodness the minister can find some other date. I want to point out to the government House leader that services will be held at the cenotaphs of cities all across Canada on Wednesday, November 11 and