

[Translation]

Mr. Lamontagne: Madam Speaker, first, the hon. members took a personal stand, and I am convinced that no hon. member on this side of the House will embarrass the government.

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[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I wonder if I might ask the government House leader what business he intends to put before us today, tomorrow and next week.

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, we had a fruitful meeting of the House leaders this morning. There is agreement that we proceed with debate on motion No. 11 later today; that we proceed also to report stage and third reading of Bill C-28 without debate, except for perhaps one short comment from each party, if necessary; then later today we will proceed to Bill C-19 in Committee of the Whole; and, if possible, to second reading stage of Bill C-3, the Unemployment Insurance Act.

Subject to further talks at our scheduled House leaders' meeting tomorrow, we might deal with all stages of Bill C-36, the "O Canada" bill, if possible. I understand that later today Bill C-35 will be reported from committee, and if there is unanimous consent we shall deal with that bill tomorrow also; then Bills C-5, S-6, C-13 and C-22.

[Translation]

Next week, depending of course on the progress of business both in the House and in committees, we could complete consideration of the following bills: C-30, on the borrowing authority for the year 1980-81, C-6, the Bank Act revision, S-2, concerning tax agreements, and C-4 respecting grants to municipalities, 1980.

[English]

Mr. Knowles: Madam Speaker, may I confirm that there have been discussions about a number of the items mentioned by the government House leader. In doing so, I can say we are prepared to agree that motion No. 11 should pass without debate. The chairman of the committee referred to in the motion is grateful for that. We are also prepared to give third reading to Bill C-28 without debate. I notice that a spokesman for the official opposition wishes to have a minute or two on that. We would claim the same amount of time only if he says something provocative. If what he says is inane, we will let it go without further debate. We shall proceed with Bill C-19 and C-3 for the rest of the day.

I may say also with respect to the order of business for tomorrow that when Bill C-35 comes back for report stage and third reading, we feel it has been adequately dealt with in committee and so it can be passed without further debate.

Business of the House

I confirm the minister's statement that there have been discussions about the "O Canada" bill and the possibility of dealing with it tomorrow. We are prepared to co-operate and it is hoped that something might be achieved at our meeting tomorrow morning.

The minister can tell me later if he included the Small Loans Act in the plan for the next little while.

With respect to next week, I suggest that it is a little way off and things do get changed, so we will accept the suggestion about the number of bills and deal with them when they come up.

I am still annoyed, Madam Speaker, that we have gone this long without the bill respecting veterans and their survivors appearing on the order paper. We have been told repeatedly, since the first week of this session, that there would be such legislation. The minister told us in the standing committee that it will be brought forward in time for us to deal with it before we recess. It seems to me, if that commitment is to be kept, that the bill ought to be on the order paper now. We have given a commitment in the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs that when the legislation comes before us, we will deal with it quickly.

I think without any further playing around the government House leader should assure us that the bill will be on the order paper before we recess and that time will be given for the bill to be passed, so that the veterans and the widows covered by that bill will receive its benefits. I am told now—I regret this—that the bill will not have any retroactivity in it. That means that every week of delay in passing, it delays getting those benefits to the people concerned. I put it to the minister as strongly as I can that this House must not break for a summer recess until we have done the right thing by our veterans.

● (1510)

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, we are going to have a House leaders' meeting tomorrow and we can discuss a number of the things that have been raised here today. But I just want to remind my friend the government House leader that we indicated to him that if the Minister of Veterans Affairs would bring back the bill which had been placed on the order paper in the Thirty-first Parliament by the former minister of national defence, the hon. member for Victoria, with respect to pensions, we would be grateful.

The Minister of Veterans Affairs has indicated that he has some improvements to that bill. He said so in his speech to the Royal Canadian Legion. If that is the case and there are such improvements to be brought forward, then I would think that it would be appropriate and a matter of priority that that bill be prepared and cleared through the cabinet.

I just want to tell my friend through you, Madam Speaker, that if that bill does come forward, we are prepared to live up to the undertaking. Assuming it is a bill that is at least as propitious and beneficial as the bill put in by the member for Victoria, we are prepared to give that bill three readings and get it out of the House of Commons and over to the other