

Business of the House

Members on Wednesday, December 18, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

The petitions presented by the Hon. Member for Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador (Mr. Rompkey), the Hon. Member for York West (Mr. Marchi), the Hon. Member for Richmond-Wolfe Mr. Tardif, and the Hon. Member for Essex-Windsor (Mr. Langdon) do not meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

The petitions presented by the Hon. Member for Okanagan-Similkameen (Mr. King), and the Hon. Member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Crofton) by filing with the Clerk of the House also meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I think it would be appropriate to ask the customary question about the business of the House.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I think that the best way to respond at this time, without being in the least frivolous, is to say with all sincerity that we are now in the process of having meetings to see whether an agenda can be reached with respect to what will transpire between now and tomorrow afternoon. It is my hope that those meetings will be fruitful. I think I should say no more at this time other than that I intend to carry on the discussions as long as there is a possibility of coming to an agreement.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Government House Leader a question which does not relate to anything that we are discussing. In the House yesterday the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret), in response to a question about whether there could be a parliamentary review of the de Havilland-Boeing matter before the deal is closed, said:

Mr. Speaker, the answer to the last of the three questions is no. I have made that very clear before. The answer is absolutely no.

The Minister said that and, understandably, he is not in the House today. Since the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) has indicated quite the contrary, could the Government House Leader tell us under what order of reference the committee hearings which have been promised by the Government can take place since, as far as I know, there are no Estimates before any of the committees which would provide a vehicle. If I am correct in this, will he immediately table a mutually satisfactory motion referring the matter of Boeing and de Havilland to the Committee?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated behind the curtains to the Hon. Member, my distinguished colleague, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens),

indicated just after I had my first meeting with the Opposition House Leader today that the matter would not finally be closed until later in January. This gave us a new dimension in terms of the available time.

Mr. Gauthier: Sure it did.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: The Hon. President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret) was, of course, only talking in terms of whether the House would have a veto power prior to the closing of the deal.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Frith: This is revisionist thinking.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: This Party has always been quite prepared to use parliamentary vehicles and committees to their fullest extent.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: This is another demonstration of that willingness. I suggest to the Hon. Member and to the House Leader of the New Democratic Party that we will make arrangements that are mutually satisfactory to ensure that a full hearing will be held at a time convenient to the Opposition and to my distinguished colleague.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

STRIKING COMMITTEE—SIXTEENTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of tabling, in both official languages, the Sixteenth Report of the Striking Committee.

PROCEDURE AND ORGANIZATION—FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of tabling, in both official languages, the First Report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization, on the Canadian Budgetary Process, to which the Committee, pursuant to Standing Order 70 (16), requests a comprehensive response.

[English]

LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION—SIXTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the sixth report of the Standing Committee