

Business of the House

Mr. Speaker: I thank the hon. member for giving notice. I can assure the hon. member that the answer is in the affirmative.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Friesen: Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend the House this morning during Routine Proceedings at the time of tabling of petitions. I wonder if I could receive unanimous consent from the House to table a petition.

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has asked for unanimous consent to table a petition.

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: So ordered.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

• (1510)

[English]

PETITIONS

JUSTICE

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey—White Rock—South Langley): Mr. Speaker, the petition concerns the one circulated by the de Villiers from Toronto on the tragic death of their daughter. The undersigned residents of Canada, in support of the parents of Nina de Villiers, request that Parliament recognize that crimes of violence against the person are serious and abhorrent to society and to amend the Criminal Code of Canada, the Bail Reform Act of 1972 and the Parole Act accordingly. It is signed by a number of my constituents.

I wish them well and hope that the government can take care of this matter soon.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, this being the last sitting day of the Christmas season, I would like to ask the traditional

question of the government House leader. Could he perhaps inform the House as to what business we might expect upon returning to Parliament on February 3?

Second, I wonder if the government House leader would be in a position to indicate quite clearly the date of the federal budget, which we presume will be in February. No specific date has yet been set. Could he give us some information on that particular point?

Third, could he indicate to us whether he will be forthcoming with enabling legislation with regard to a possible referendum?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, in terms of House business, we will continue to the completion of Bill C-32 at report stage, after which we will adjourn for a needed, if not deserved, respite from this place.

Upon return, there is a considerable list of bills that I would like to consider. I would ask the hon. House leader's indulgence, as well as that of other parties and members, to get back to them well in advance of February 3 to indicate the government's priorities. It will depend on what ministers will be available for participation in debate. As for the budget, the pattern established by this government of having annual budgets at approximately the third week of February is well received by everybody in the country and it is a pattern that we will continue.

As for the question of plebiscites and so on, as I have indicated earlier, these will be considered later for many reasons, not the least of which is the fact that I wish to receive and study the report of the Royal Commission on Electoral Reform, which is an important ingredient, before we can even consider such legislation.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the government House leader could indicate to the House whether there are any further statements that ministers or others might be making today.

Mr. Andre: I am sure that everybody would like to stand up and wish everybody else a Merry Christmas. Beyond that, I cannot think of any other reason why members would want to start other than to complete the debate and begin a happy holiday season for everybody concerned.