

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): When the house leader comes the house will be made aware of what the business will be on Wednesday.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, now that the house leader is in his place I wonder whether the Prime Minister would permit him to answer the question I asked the Prime Minister a few minutes ago and which he said would be answered when the house leader arrived?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think perhaps it would be preferable to follow the usual course and deal with the business of the house at the conclusion of the sitting. If the house leader wishes to outline it now I have no objection but it is more customary to disclose the order of government business at the conclusion of the day's sitting.

INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM BEFORE
EASTER RECESS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): May I direct a question either to the Prime Minister or the house leader? I should like to ask either one of them what the business of the house will be on Wednesday of this week?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Veterans Affairs): That question will be answered as usual at the conclusion of the business today.

Mr. Chevrier: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. It has been the practice from time to time prior to the Easter recess to ask the following question and I ask it now of the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister, either now or tomorrow if he wishes, give the house some indication of what the business is likely to be and what legislation is likely to come up between now and the Easter recess?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think a perusal of the order paper will give a pretty good answer to the hon. gentleman. There may be some additional matters. Naturally matters arise that must be brought before the house, but the order paper has sufficient on it to use up the time of the house.

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, the acting leader of the house on the government side was not in the house when the Prime Minister replied to the question of the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition asked the Prime Minister about the order of the business on Wednesday.

[*Mr. Pearson:*]

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the hon. member would be well advised to bring the matter of Wednesday's business, if that is what he is inquiring into, before the house at the end of today's sitting.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): With great respect, I prefer to deal with it now on orders of the day. The procedure of the house at this time of the session is that this kind of matter is usually discussed between the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition—

Mr. Hees: Stop trying to take the place of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Martin (Essex East):—on the orders of the day. I have a right to ask the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps I anticipated the wrong question. A question was asked of the Prime Minister who answered it and if the hon. member's question is supplementary to that it will be in order to ask it.

Mr. Hees: Don't try to take the place of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker: In any event, I shall be glad to hear what the hon. member's question is, but I take the opportunity to caution him that if it relates to tomorrow's business he should ask it later today.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): May I ask the leader of the house, in view of the statement by the Prime Minister to the Leader of the Opposition as to the business of the house on Wednesday—

Mr. Hees: Let the Leader of the Opposition speak for himself.

Mr. Martin (Essex East):—is he in a position to indicate to the house what the procedure will be tomorrow night after the Minister of Finance has given his budget, and what will be the order of business for Wednesday?

Mr. Churchill: At the appropriate time I will do that.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Just the opposite of what the Prime Minister said; the Prime Minister has lost his authority.

DIVORCE BILLS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT
OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I should like to ask the Minister of Veterans Affairs a question in his capacity as house leader. As