

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, today we will continue with the debate on capital punishment. Tomorrow and Monday will be opposition days and on Tuesday, if need be, we will continue also with the capital punishment debate. The other government business that I should like to call after Bill C-2, would be the Judges Act, the National Housing Act amendment, the residential mortgages bill and the languages resolution. It may be that we will want to consider early next week whether we want to deal with the languages resolution on Wednesday. We may begin it on Wednesday or Thursday. If we decide to begin it on Thursday, we will call an opposition day on Wednesday.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Mr. Speaker, if I may speak on the issue of opposition days, I wonder if I might be allowed to ask the minister if he would try to restrain the natural and understandable ardour of his colleagues for making long and controversial statements on opposition days. If they need to make them, would they make them on Monday rather than tomorrow.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, with respect to the coming business of the House, can the minister indicate whether high priority will be given to the bill to amend the Family Allowances Act and to the measure to provide increases in war disability pensions?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Does that affirmative answer mean that we will be dealing with these matters before the end of June?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot give that assurance until I see what progress is made with other measures that are now before the House. It would be my wish to have those items cleared before the summer adjournment, whenever that takes place.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) what fate he has in mind for the amendment to the Unemployment Insurance Act.

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have some serious doubts and reservations about questions that are being asked as points of order as to what priority the government is giving to a certain piece of legislation or what the government intends to do about one particular bill or the other. It seems to me that these are questions which ought ordinarily to be asked during the question period. I mention this only by way of caution because, certainly, it seems to me hon. members would not want to ask about many proposed bills that are before the House, or about much proposed legislation.

Having said this only by way of caution—

[*Translation*]

This being said, I certainly have no objection to the minister answering the question of the hon. member for Abitibi.

[*Mr. Baldwin.*]

[*English*]

I will of course recognize the hon. member for Calgary North and the hon. member for Greenwood, who may have similar questions to ask.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Laprise:** Mr. Speaker, this bill was introduced on January 5 last and every day we are in touch with people who are claiming unemployment insurance benefits. This bill contains a number of amendments which would favour unemployment insurance recipients and I feel that we should give consideration to this legislation as quickly as possible.

[*English*]

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, in view of your statement, and as I do not want to break the rules, may I ask the leader of the House one question. When he mentioned the list of legislation that has priority, the Housing Act was omitted. I raise this question merely to ask if he will bring that bill in as a matter of high priority. I should like to know what kind of priority the government attaches to that bill, if I might go that far.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I thought I had mentioned the housing legislation. If I did not, I intended to. It will be called very early as part of the government's legislation. For example, if we complete the capital punishment debate today or early on Tuesday, I would certainly call the National Housing Act amendment following the Judges Act, which I expect will require a very short time to complete. If I may reply to the question of the hon. member for Abitibi, it is my intention to call the unemployment insurance debate at the first appropriate opportunity.

**Mr. Hees:** Some time next fall.

**Mr. Brewin:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the leader of the House whether he is aware that his colleague, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, pointed out to the committee the very urgent need for dealing with the Immigration Appeal Board legislation. Has that legislation high priority?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, my colleagues are almost as troublesome as hon. members opposite in urging the priority of their legislation. The Minister of Manpower and Immigration is pressing to have his item of legislation dealt with quickly, but there are other items that have to be dealt with first. I have indicated to the House that I want to deal with capital punishment, the languages bill and the corporate tax changes as major items which must be dealt with. The others will be given their place in almost the same rank of priority, and they will be dealt with.

**Mr. Alexander:** Mr. Speaker, if I may raise another point of order similar to that raised by the hon. member for Greenwood, is the minister aware that there are something like 16,000 persons waiting to have their appeals heard and that these appeals are being filed monthly in huge numbers? Does he not think, surely, that he ought to reassess his priorities, in order to bring that much needed bill before the House, so that we can expedite this matter?