

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister without Portfolio): In the way the question was phrased there seemed to be some idea in the hon. member's mind that there would be a digest of responses to government announcements. I know of no such digest. In trying to search my mind for what he might be talking about I thought it might be a report on the feedback of comments, concerns, expressions of opinions or inquiries that come through the inquiry centre from time to time. If that is what he has in mind, we hope to issue a report of that kind once a month. Since the inquiry centre just opened, probably the first one might be at the end of the year and then once a month after that. Of course members of all parties would receive those reports at the same time.

Mr. Bell: Now that we understand each other, may I be assured that we will receive these reports in Parliament in the same way that other persons will outside Parliament and that they will tell us how the latest reaction to government announcements have fared in public print, to use the exact words of one of his departmental officials?

Mr. Stanbury: The reports, as I have just mentioned, will go to all Members of Parliament at the same time.

Mr. Bell: And they will not be selective?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question of the minister responsible for Information Canada.

Since several requests have been made by some colleges or CEGEPs in order to get better information in respect of Canadian politics, would the minister be in favour that his department distributes to junior colleges or CEGEPs in Canada, or at least in my riding,—since the question originated there—some information coming directly from Information Canada?

Mr. Stanbury: Mr. Speaker, Information Canada's budget does not allow this service, but I am willing to discuss it with the hon. member and my colleagues.

In my view, the suggestion to provide colleges with as much information as possible concerning the federal government is excellent.

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[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the President of the Privy Council about the business for the rest of this week and for next week and whether he has any indication now of the target date for the recess?

Mr. MacEachen: I thank the hon. member for his question. Today we hope to continue with the debate on the Old Age Security Act. It is understood that the debate will adjourn at 5 p.m. today so that the budget presenta-

[Mr. Bell.]

Inquiries of the Ministry

tion can be made at 8 p.m. tonight. If it is necessary, I would like that to be put in the form of a House order.

Tomorrow we will resume the second reading of the Old Age Security Act if it is not completed today. If that is completed tomorrow, we will go on to Bill S-2, the Statistics Act, Bill C-184, the Export Development Act and Bill S-4, the Canada-New Zealand Trade Agreement. Tomorrow we can consult with regard to further business following these items, if necessary.

On Monday I would propose to call the budget debate. I do not wish to make any further announcement regarding the business next week until I have had an opportunity to meet the house leaders tomorrow morning following the budget presentation to discuss our plans.

With respect to the target date for adjournment, it had been the plan of the government to adjourn on December 18. I hope that it will be possible to reach an orderly arrangement to complete all the necessary business. I am not saying this in any way to create a controversy or confrontation.

Mr. Stanfield: No threat?

Mr. MacEachen: No threat. We must keep in mind that it may be necessary to sit beyond that date, but I think with co-operation on all sides we can adjourn on December 18 or near that date.

Mr. Baldwin: Now that the bill dealing with the Auditor General is out of the way, does that not help the hon. gentleman in fixing a target date?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. KNOWLES (WINNIPEG NORTH CENTRE)—REFERENCE BY PRIME MINISTER TO CONTROL OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): During the course of the oral question period the Prime Minister made reference to a committee of this House of which he said the opposition has control. It seems to me that it is a point of privilege to put on the record the fact that the Public Accounts Committee consists of 20 members, 10 Liberals and a total of 10 from the opposition side of the House—six, two, and two. The Chairman is a member of an opposition party. This means that when he is in the chair the votes are ten to nine in favour of the government. So it is the government which controls that committee.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!