

Business of the House

matter of privilege. I, therefore, suggest he avail himself of the procedures of the "Late Show".

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Government House Leader what business he proposes for the coming week.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. House Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Gray) for asking that question. As Hon. Members know, we are approaching the time when the House would normally adjourn for the Christmas recess. Therefore, we have a very ambitious legislative program, with which I know Hon. Members will want to co-operate. As Hon. Members know, we are now dealing with a motion with respect to Bill C-74, the Representation Act, 1985. Following that we will continue with report stage of Bill C-70, the family allowance Bill. That will be followed by Bill C-79, an Act respecting the provision of compensation to depositors in the CCB.

There are also other budget related Bills in committee and, in the interest of the taxpayers of Canada, I am anxious to have progress made on these items of legislation, which include Bill C-82, with respect to the Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax Act, Bill C-80, an Act to amend the Excise Tax Act, and Bill C-84 with respect to the Income Tax Act. I think it is in the interest of the people of Canada that we make progress on those Bills before Christmas.

We must also deal with Bill C-83, which we have debated at second reading, which deals with the tax rebate discounting legislation and legislates charges to be made by tax discounters to taxpayers who use their services. That Bill should be in place from the beginning of the year to protect the people of Canada.

There are also items of very considerable social significance which I think the people of Canada would like us to complete before we adjourn for the Christmas recess. I refer to the legislation to amend the Divorce Act, the Divorce Corollary Relief Act, and the Family Order Enforcement Assistance Act. On each of these Bills there has been substantial and good input in committee and on the floor of the House. This is very important legislation which is being awaited.

There is also legislation in committee which is to be reported out. I commend to the House and to the Opposition House Leaders legislation with respect to the Parole Act and the Penitentiary Act to do away with the problems with respect to gating and keeping dangerous convicts out of society. There is also important legislation with respect to the RCMP which is to modernize and make more effective and more in the interests of the Canadian public the procedures and provisions with respect to the operation of that very distinguished national police force.

Perhaps we can complete this business by the end of this week.

Mr. Blaikie: We will never get it done if you keep talking.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I would like to point out as well, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to have the reform package put into effect for the time when the House resumes sitting. There is also, Mr. Speaker, item No. 59 on the Order Paper which is in my name. If there are any additional items which we think we can accomplish before Christmas, I will certainly advise the House and the House Leaders of the opposition Parties.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I would like the Government House Leader to give us his priorities. If he has any sense of realism about the operation of the House, surely he will set forth a clear-cut realistic set of priorities which we can consider.

In that connection I would like to ask the Government House Leader whether he realizes that the current excessive and abusive use of closure and time allocation is poisoning the atmosphere of the House, is undermining the role of Parliament, and is not making it easy for progress to be made.

I also want to ask him if he will tell the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) that to prepare family allowance cheques on the basis of a law that has not passed, and may not pass by the time the House adjourns, is an abuse of Parliament and is contemptuous of Parliament. Finally—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order, please. I am sure all these matters are important to all the House Leaders, but it seems to me that this is beginning to be a meeting of House Leaders on the floor of the House as opposed to a discussion of the business that is actually scheduled, which is what we are supposed to do at this time. I, therefore, recognize, for the moment, the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans).

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to take too much time. I would acknowledge that the package of the Government House Leader is ambitious, but manageable in certain circumstances within a reasonable period of time. I would like to ask him, however, if, in an effort to try to accommodate his desire to see progress made on all of those matters, he might be prepared to respond to two questions. First, he knows that there have been some requests from this side of the House for certain changes to legislation which he has already mentioned. Does he know whether the Government is prepared to accept changes, for example, to the Family Allowances Act along the lines of what was requested?

● (1520)

The second question is of equal importance and can be dealt with immediately, I believe. He will recall that approximately a week and a half ago I wrote to him with regard to the problems of the sale of de Havilland to Boeing Corporation. I asked if he would consult with his cabinet colleagues and perhaps respond to me. The request that I made on behalf of