

Business of the House

Mr. Axworthy: I wanted to raise a point of order about the remarks of the Hon. Member. The Chairman of the committee did not state the facts as they were and I think the record must show that the facts were that when the committee first met it was an undertaking by members of the committee to contact witnesses. Second, I did vote on the motion.

Mr. Speaker: I do not—

Mr. Axworthy: Those are the facts. That is the truth. He should start telling the truth.

Mr. Taylor: Is there something wrong with you?

Mr. Lewis: At least Lloyd is on the committee.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask all Hon. Members, if they need to address each other, to do so in the lobby or through the Chair. At the moment the matter is adjourned as far as I am concerned. I will hear from Members later on this afternoon.

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[Translation]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, it is Thursday afternoon and time for the usual question which I would like to put to the Deputy House Leader, Minister of State (Treasury Board) (Mr. Lewis), Minister of just about everything for a Government that is very fortunate to have him! Perhaps he would have the kindness to inform Members of the business of the House for the next few days and give them a priority list of the business he will table in the House in the near future.

[English]

Mr. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)): Mr. Speaker, in the time remaining today, we will continue debate on Bill C-117, which is the amendment to the Excise Tax Act, and the back-up Bill that is shown on today's Order Paper.

Tomorrow we will continue debate on Bill C-117, and the back-up Bill will be Bill C-121, the divestiture of Eldorado. Next week we will be looking at Bills on which we had hoped to make better progress this week. Due to the delay in dealing with the Bill on Eldorado, we have not been able to do that. That will be Bill C-117, the Excise Tax Act, if we do not finish it tomorrow, and Bill C-121, the divestiture of Eldorado Nuclear, if we do not finish that tomorrow. We will also deal with Bill C-110, the trade tribunal, and Bill C-30, the National Parks Act.

The arrangement of those Bills will depend upon the availability of spokespersons because we are trying to accommodate the opposition Parties.

As soon as we are finished with these Bills, I want to advise the House that we hope to move to the Atlantic Opportunities Agency, Bill C-103, which is at report stage and third reading, to the important changes to the Environmental Protection Act which is at report stage and third reading, and to Bill C-30, the National Parks Act.

If we get those other items out of the way we will be able to move on to these very important Bills that we wish to send to the other place.

• (1520)

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister to give me some information as to what the Government intends to present in terms of its priorities. We are dealing with a very difficult situation. The Minister knows that. We have 46 days of House time left for the Government, and we have a heavy agenda.

As a matter of fact, I did a search of the documents today and found that there are about 40 items on the list of the Government including abortion, the Meech Lake Accord, the trade agreement, tax reform legislation, massive excise tax increases, child care, immigration Bills, tobacco advertising, Atlantic development, western development, lobbying, replacing the War Measures Act, western development, official languages, multiculturalism, conflict of interest, and now as of yesterday the privatization of Air Canada.

This sounds to me like enough work for a whole year. Is the Minister trying to set up the House to be yelling "foul" or "obstruction" in a couple of days because the Government fails to give us a list of priorities today in terms of the items I just mentioned? If the Government does not have a priority list then it will run out of time by June. It had darn well better start thinking about being serious now. I am asking the Minister to please give us a priority list so that we can get organized.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, one has to admire my hon. friend's ability to keep a straight face as he went through that list. I will say this to the House. We are making every effort to prioritize not only our agenda but also to fit in with the agenda of spokespersons of the opposition Parties who have other commitments.

My hon. friend and the House Leader for the New Democratic Party know that. I appreciate my hon. friend's concern for our legislative calendar. If he were to review the record, and I see that he has done some review as to what is ahead of us, what he might look at is what is behind us. In three years and two months to December 31, 1987, some 230 Bills were introduced in the House and some 180 were passed. If he were to review the record of the previous Liberal administration he would see that it took four years and two months in which to achieve the same record. I ask the Hon. member to bear with us.