

PRIVILEGE

COMMENTS DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I am totally outraged and offended that the Minister of National Revenue in this House of Commons would imply that those of us in the New Democratic caucus either use the services of an escort service or are somehow employed by—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member rises on a matter that was the subject of an exchange two minutes ago. It may well be that the consequences of the exchange have created some consternation or some annoyance but it is not a question of privilege.

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POINT OF ORDER

COMMENT DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, during Question Period today the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre in his supplementary suggested that I was providing inaccurate information to the House on a question that was posed. I would simply ask him to refer to table 4.4 on page 138 and he will see that the answer corresponds to that table.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member may very well consult those pages. I would ask hon. members on both sides to do the best they can to restrain from carrying on debate by way of notices of privilege or order after the Question Period has ended. I would hear the usual Thursday afternoon question.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the government House leader. Perhaps he could indicate to the House the business for tomorrow and for Monday and Tuesday of the week we return after the March break.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Yes, Mr.

The Budget

Speaker. Today the House will complete the second day of debate on the budget. On Friday, February 28, it is the government's intention to call Bill C-61, the borrowing authority bill for second reading.

On Monday, March 9, after being adjourned for a week—it sounds like a holiday but I am going to work in Calgary—we will complete second reading of Bill C-61. My intention now is to call the third and fourth days of the budget debate on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 10 and 11 respectively. I will engage in discussions with the members of the opposition in respect of other business for the remainder of that week.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Mazankowski that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government; and on the amendment of Mr. Gray (Windsor West) (p. 7631); and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Langdon (p.7633).

Hon. Roy MacLaren (Etobicoke North): Mr. Speaker, in participating in the debate on the budget I shall leave it to a number of my colleagues who have already and will no doubt draw attention to the deplorable record in this budget of support for stimulus that would bring immediate employment and benefit to the Canadian people. Quite obviously the government has not chosen to respond to the widespread desire on the part of Canadians to see measures to bring about that necessary stimulus.

In fact, the real message in the minister's recent budget speech, as distinct from the rhetoric in which it was dressed, is that Canada's current recession is simply part of a normal cyclical downturn, one which mirrors, he says, a world-wide economic slump. As a corollary of that belief, he offers the reassurance that the economy will soon rebound on the strength of renewed consumer spending and an export led growth principally to a resurgent U.S. market.