

members of all parties be here until five o'clock on Fridays and at two o'clock on Mondays, which would be the case if it were necessary to introduce a motion that could come to a vote, to enable the government to deal with government measures on the Order Paper. Well, we are having a frank and open debate on the floor of the House, and I am asking the hon. member to be patient, because as I have often said, and I say it again today, the reports prepared for us by the committee which is looking into the regulations in general have an impact on the committee system and also on future parliamentary reform, an impact which may be more or less direct depending on the circumstances, and I think it would be unwise and premature to discuss these reports before we negotiate certain changes in the Standing Orders of the House of Commons during the next few months. In the circumstances, my answer must be no, we are not prepared to consider the reports of this committee at this time, in view of the circumstances I have already mentioned which are very real, and as a result of which the government must consider as much of its business as possible to expedite the items on the Order Paper and start a new session as soon as possible.

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, the government House leader is labouring, as is probably the Minister of Finance, because he is not a veteran, and I mean no inference by that remark—

An hon. Member: Shame!

Mr. Nielsen: Don't say "shame". The hon. member opposite with the backwards collar who is interrupting is not a veteran either, I do not believe. But veterans consider this day extremely important, almost sacred, to them. I can assure the government House leader that Remembrance Day is held on the eleventh, and unlike many other holidays which might be celebrated on a Monday or Friday simply because they fall in the middle of the week, Remembrance Day is a single exception to that rule. It has never been held on other than November 11.

● (1510)

Many of us who are veterans want to go home to attend Remembrance Day ceremonies but we cannot possibly do so if we are prevented from leaving here until ten o'clock Tuesday night. We have either to stay here and listen to the budget or leave to join our veterans.

I am sure the government would want to accommodate the veterans' organizations under whose jurisdiction these ceremonies fall. I am also sure that many members, both veterans and non-veterans, want to participate in these ceremonies.

Mr. Beatty: Madam Speaker, would the government House leader clarify his response with regard to the report of the Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and other Statutory Instruments? The minister made reference to parliamentary reform. Is he aware that the report my hon. friend from Yukon was alluding to had nothing to do with parliamentary reform

but was, in fact, a report on VIA Rail recommending the government bring forward legislation to create VIA Rail in line with the recommendations which you, Madam Speaker, made earlier this year in this House with regard to legislative items and the appropriation votes. The report has nothing to do with parliamentary reform; it is a standard report from the committee.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, regarding the last question, I would remind the hon. member that there are three reports under his name on the Order Paper, and if the report to which he is referring has no connection with parliamentary reform, at least one of the two remaining reports does have an impact on this matter and also appears on the Order Paper. In any case, if a report is connected with parliamentary reform, consideration of the report should be postponed until the matter of parliamentary reform is addressed, perhaps during the next few months, and as for the other committee reports, the government prefers, as is its prerogative, to deal with government measures first because of the time factor. So the same answer applies in both cases.

Regarding Remembrance Day, Madam Speaker, I do not know what the custom is in the riding of my colleague for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), but I can say that in my own constituency and in those of most of my colleagues here, that day is observed on the preceding Sunday. The laying of the wreath at the war memorial, a ceremony I make a point of attending, takes place on the preceding Sunday. In any case, if I understand correctly, the hon. member does not want the House of Commons to be in session on the 11th, the 10th, the 9th, the 8th and the 7th. In the circumstances, and since this year November 11 falls right in the middle of the week, on a Wednesday, we shall follow the Standing Orders of the House and the House will not sit on November 11.

[English]

Mr. Deans: Madam Speaker, first I want to comment on the possibility of extending the House recess to accommodate Remembrance Day. I hope the fact that this discussion is taking place on the floor does not harden the position of the government House leader. Although there may be a number of Legions and other veterans' associations who hold their Remembrance Day services on the Sunday, there are still many who hold these services on Remembrance Day.

An hon. Member: The majority do.

An hon. Member: About 90 per cent.

Mr. Deans: An hon. member to my right tells me it is 90 per cent. I cannot quarrel with that, but I am prepared to admit that it is many.

Rather than get into a fixed position from which we cannot move, perhaps the government House leader would agree to take the matter under advisement for the moment and we could have further discussion to determine whether there may