

Business of the House

say, and I agree this is indeed a serious matter. Now, it may or may not be a question of privilege.

I think I will need time to consider all the points made by Hon. Members, but in any event, this may be an anomaly, and it certainly is a rather extraordinary and even bizarre situation, because in practice, at the House of Commons we provide every opportunity for every Member, anglophone and francophone, to speak and work in both languages. Obviously this is not the exception but an ongoing and normal practice in this House as it is in the committees and everywhere else on the Hill. Apparently, however, we have a legal opinion, a very intelligent and enlightened opinion, that has concluded that for a variety of reasons, the Official Languages Act does not apply to the House. If this opinion is correct, we have a situation that is quite extraordinary.

For the time being, I intend to defer my ruling, but I am most grateful to the Hon. Member for Charlevoix (Mr. Hamelin) and to the other Members, the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria), the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme), the Parliamentary Secretary, the Hon. Member for Western Arctic (Mr. Nickerson) and the Hon. Members for Saint-Jacques (Mr. Guilbault) and Outremont (Mrs. Pépin). And I think it would also be appropriate for me to recall the views held by the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier), who unfortunately is engaged elsewhere today. This is a subject that is very important to the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier as well. In any case, the Chair feels that the best thing would be to adjourn debate so that we will have a chance to consider all the arguments and comments we have heard. Consequently, I shall defer my ruling. I want to thank all Members for their comments. The Hon. Member for Charlevoix (Mr. Hamelin).

Mr. Hamelin: Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank you—

Mr. Speaker: I hope this is not on the same question.

Mr. Hamelin: Mr. Speaker, I simply want to say that I greatly appreciate your very receptive attitude to this subject and I want to thank you on behalf of the Francophones of Canada.

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[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I merely want to ask the Deputy Government House Leader (Mr. Lewis) the traditional business question of the House as is customary on this day every week.

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions among the Parties and this evening

at six o'clock when the vote on the amendment of the Hon. Member for Broadview—Greenwood (Ms. McDonald) is taken, we would immediately thereafter call the vote at second reading. That would mean that tomorrow we would call the Budget for the second day.

● (1550)

On March 2, when the House reconvenes after one week's recess, we will be tabling the 1987-88 Main Estimates. We will then move to consideration of Bill C-6, legislation concerning the Atlantic Accord, followed by Bill C-39, the Canada Shipping Act. That will be followed by Bill C-12, the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, indeed, there has been consultation among the Parties in the House and there is agreement to proceed with both votes at six o'clock, as I understand it from my House Leader.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government, and the amendment of Mr. Garneau (p. 3594) and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Cassidy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It was understood this morning that we would now proceed to the question and comment period on the speech of the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy). The Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis).

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I have a short question for the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy). Regarding the whole matter of tax reform the Hon. Member clearly indicated that he had some questions with respect to whether or not the intent of the Government to introduce serious tax reform in fact reflected justice, fairness and equity in our tax system. He went on to make the point that the Government had the opportunity in its most recent Budget to eliminate the open-ended capital gains tax exemption, while recognizing that it is an appropriate exemption for family farms, small businesses and family homes. To have it apply widely to capital gains obtained in Canada from any and all sources is one thing, but to have it apply to capital gains obtained from sources outside Canada, sources in Florida, Hawaii or the Caribbean is another matter.

The fact that income derived from capital gains obtained in those foreign jurisdictions is not subject to any tax in Canada is something I do not think one would find in any country of the world. Even Mr. Reagan, the President of the United