

Estimates

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I answered this question in English but I think it is necessary to repeat our commitment to regional development. During the past four years, we have increased our commitment to regional development by 50 per cent, and during the next five years, regional development will be up by 35 per cent. This is very important for the provinces, and I think it is very important to understand that within the next few weeks, the ministers—

[English]

I will repeat it in English. In the next few weeks Ministers will be sitting down with their provincial counterparts to discuss the renegotiation of any regional development agreement.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I want to address to the Government House Leader the usual question about the business the Government intends to call over the next seven days. For obvious reasons this question could not have been put yesterday. I am sure the Government House Leader would love to have the question put to him and give his answer.

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate to the House that on Monday it is our intention to commence second reading of the borrowing Bill and to continue the same on Tuesday if in fact it is not finished on Monday.

On Wednesday it would be our intention to resume debate on the Budget as the second allotted day.

If I may I would like to point out a complication with the House order under which we are operating today. It states:

That, immediately upon the completion of the speech by the New Democratic Party speaker, but in any event not later than 3.30 o'clock p.m., the Speaker shall adjourn the House until Monday, May 1, 1989, at 11 o'clock a.m.

I want to point out that the usual provisions which apply with respect to extending the day would be foreclosed by that 3.30 time. It was not the intention of the Government nor of the Opposition House Leaders when we drafted the order to in any way curtail the remarks of the lead speaker for the Liberal Party and the Member who is speaking on behalf of the New Democratic Party. I want to indicate at this time that we on the Government side would be prepared not to see the clock in the event that those remarks are not completed by 3.30 p.m. in order to allow for them to be completed.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Official Opposition I am prepared to agree to that proposal provided it is understood that no one else will be given the floor after the conclusion of the remarks of the spokesperson for the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Government and the Official Opposition for their courtesy.

I also want to take this opportunity while I am on my feet to say this. We are assuming that since the comments in terms of the questions of privilege raised yesterday cannot proceed today because of the special order, we will be able to resume those comments on Monday, and that we will be following the points in that order for today's business.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the proposal. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt it?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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MAIN ESTIMATES, 1989-90

A message from Her Excellency The Governor General transmitting Estimates for the financial year ending March 31, 1990, was presented by the Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board) and read by Mr. Deputy Speaker to the House.

• (1210)

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table in support of the Estimates, Part I, the Government expenditure plan. I will table with the Clerk of the House on behalf of my colleagues Part III of the Estimates consisting of 84 departmental expenditure plans. These documents will be distributed to members of the standing committees to assist in their consideration of the spending authorities sought in Part II of the Estimates.