

needed; it is not to be used to defray in any way any deficits or operational expenses of the railway.

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[Translation]

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate have passed Bill S-17, an act to implement conventions between Canada and New Zealand and Canada and Australia for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to income tax, to which the concurrence of this House is desired.

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THE ROYAL ASSENT

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received as follows:

Rideau Hall
Ottawa
Government House

February 26, 1981

Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Julien Chouinard, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 26th day of February, at 5.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving royal assent to a bill.

I have the honour to be,
Madam,
Your obedient servant,
Edmond Joly de Lotbinière
Administrative Secretary
to the Governor General

* * *

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I wonder if I could direct a question to the government House leader. Would he be kind enough to inform us whether he can allot next Wednesday, March 4, 1981, as an allotted day.

While he is doing that, could he also inform the House whether the arrangements for the visit of President Reagan to Canada have been completed. I have particular reference to whether the President of the United States will be addressing a joint sitting of both Houses. If so, could he tell the House when that might be.

Business of the House

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, next week, unless otherwise decided, we shall continue, at least we hope to, the closing debate on the Constitution. With regard to March 4, I cannot confirm at this point that it will be an allotted day. I am quite willing to discuss the matter later on today with my learned colleague and the House leader of the NDP.

With regard to the details of the visit to Canada of the President of the United States, I am unable to give my hon. colleague of the opposition complete details at this time. However, as soon as details have been confirmed, I shall advise him accordingly; it is quite probable that the President of the United States will address both Houses jointly, but the time and day have yet to be confirmed. As soon as they are, I shall advise my hon. colleagues.

[English]

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, there are two other items. You will recall the all-night debate that we had in the House prior to the Christmas adjournment. At that time there was an order of the House by unanimous consent, and I am quoting now from *Votes and Proceedings* of December 18, as follows:

That the House of Commons employees who have worked all night in the sitting that commenced on Thursday, December 18, 1980, and is still in progress, be paid extra compensation for their service, and that the thanks of the House be extended to them.

I have heard from some employees that this extra compensation may not have been paid. I wonder if it would be possible for the government House leader, through the appropriate channels, to make that inquiry and see whether that is the case, and perhaps advise us on the matter.

Madam Speaker: I can tell the hon. member that this is under my jurisdiction and I can tell him that it is well in hand and he will be informed in due course.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you.

My final question concerns the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who is in the House, and it concerns House business. The minister will recall that some inquiries were made with respect to the takeover of Petrofina by Petro-Canada. As reported at page 7611 of *Hansard*, he was asked whether he would table the results of those inquiries when they have been completed. Have they been completed and could the minister tell us whether he will be tabling that information?

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, I was in touch with Petro-Canada at the time of the question and again this morning to ask when this information would be made available. I have been advised that I should have it early next week. I will be very happy to table it as soon as I have it.