

Business of the House

the member for Windsor West, the Official Opposition House leader; and the member for Kamloops, the New Democratic Party House leader:

That a special committee of the House be appointed and empowered to review the Parliament of Canada Act regarding the powers, duty and obligations of the members of the House in relation thereto and regarding the authority, responsibilities and jurisdiction of the Board of Internal Economy;

That the said special committee shall have all powers of a standing committee pursuant to Standing Order 108(1);

That the said special committee shall report its findings and recommendations no later than March 5, 1990;

That the said special committee be chaired by the Deputy Speaker; and that seven additional members be recommended by the striking committee.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that you have a copy of the first motion.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard both the motions put forward by the hon. Minister of Justice. Is there agreement?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed and so ordered.

Motions agreed to.

[*Translation*]

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY OF MEMBERS

Mr. François G rin (M gantic—Compton—Stansstead): Mr. Speaker, I raised a question of privilege after what happened last Tuesday before the Justice Committee.

We have listened carefully to the proposals made by the Leader of the Government which met with the agreement of the House, and we are very pleased with these proposals. The Quebec caucus had been considering the matter for several weeks, and it proposed this long-term solution in the form of a special committee as provided under Section 53.1 of the Parliament of Canada Act.

It will be an opportunity for us to clarify the jurisdiction of the Board of Internal Economy and to suggest publishing the rules of internal economy by which we are probably governed. The special committee will also give us a chance to consider not only the rights but also the obligations, privileges and duties of members of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, our main purpose in seeking this long-term solution is to preserve the independence members

of this House need to do their work, which is not always easy. The budgets we are given are not only tools, they are absolutely essential.

We also asked for this to be a public debate, and we want to thank all parties in the House of Commons and all members of this House for agreeing to this solution. The committee's proceedings and the entire review process, will be public and open. That, Mr. Speaker, is what Canadians expect of their members of Parliament.

We need the co-operation of all concerned, especially and including RCMP authorities and members of the force.

Mr. Speaker: I want to thank the hon. member for his comments.

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[*English*]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I think it would be appropriate to ask the government House leader to give the usual weekly statement of business.

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the House that tomorrow at 10 a.m. the House will consider Bill C-28 at report stage.

After Routine Proceedings at twelve o'clock we will deal with Bill C-40 and it is expected we would complete second reading. We will then move to Bill C-47 in all stages; that is the amendments to the Elections Act.

We are still negotiating to try to find appropriate business which could be proceeded with on Monday.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, in discussing the business to come up, I think it is fair to say, concluding from exchanges earlier in Question Period, that Bill C-21 may likely not receive Royal Assent by the New Year.

Of course we are concerned about that because of the variable entrance rates for qualifying for unemployment insurance. I simply wanted to say to the government House leader that usually at this time of the year we give rapid passage to a bill to continue the variable interest rates.