

The Address—Mr. Stanfield

Mr. Kierans: I would be prepared to do so. There are no political considerations in mind, if that is what the hon. member is suggesting.

Mr. Peters: On a question of privilege, I did not suggest there were political considerations involved. I said there were perhaps other considerations, such as the population in the rural areas concerned. We would like to have this material.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CONGRATULATIONS EXTENDED TO U.S. PRESIDENT-ELECT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): May I direct this question to the Prime Minister. Can he tell the house whether in the interests of good neighbourly relations he has sent a telegram of congratulations to the new President-elect?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I did send a telegram. It said: "Warmest congratulations and good wishes on your electoral success yesterday." That is the beginning of the telegram.

An hon. Member: To whom was it sent?

Mr. Trudeau: I believe it was sent to—

An hon. Member: A fellow by the name of Nixon?

Mr. Trudeau: I can tell the hon. member that the electronic devices of the CBC have been working well. It was sent to President-elect Nixon.

The message went on to suggest that there be warm co-operation between our two governments, and that the objectives and aspirations which Canadians share with our friends and neighbours in the United States would be pursued by our government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order, or at least on a question of order, and I should like to direct my remarks to the President of the Privy Council.

● (3:50 p.m.)

Before I do so, however, perhaps I might be permitted to echo the sentiments expressed the other day by the hon. member for

Oxford, and extend the best wishes of the house to the Minister of National Revenue on the occasion of the surgery he is to undergo tomorrow.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): My question to the President of the Privy Council relates to the hour between five and six o'clock today. In view of the fact that there are so many members anxious to speak in the budget debate could we have unanimous consent to waive that as private members hour, not losing the Wednesday, so that we can get in a couple more speeches on the budget?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I would be quite agreeable to that, subject to the usual reservations with respect to the rights of private members. Perhaps we could make that an order of the house now.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed that this be made an order of the house?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for his good wishes, and I would just like to say that the operation will not take place tomorrow. I am going into hospital tomorrow and the operation will be next week.

Mr. Lewis: Good luck anyway.

THE BUDGET

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The house resumed from Tuesday, November 5, consideration of the motion of Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance) that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West) (page 2262).

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in discussing this budget one must begin with the question of credibility. Nearly a year ago when speaking in the previous budget debate I said that in the circumstances of that time the credibility of the government was at stake. Since then I think it is clear that the credibility of the government has been destroyed.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.