

Business of the House

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that messages have been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed the following bills: Bill C-81, an Act to amend the Official Residences Act and Bill C-14, an Act to amend the Diplomatic and Consular Privileges and Immunities Act, without amendment.

I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill C-83, an Act to amend the Senate and House of Commons Act, the Salaries Act, the Parliamentary Secretaries Act and the Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act, without amendment.

* * *

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I have indicated to the government House leader that I would be asking him a House business question today.

My understanding is that as a first priority we will be dealing with Bill C-82, to amend the Pension Act and the Compensation for Former Prisoners of War Act. If that is the case, I want to advise my friend that we are prepared to have that bill proceed through all stages here today with one speaker per party, and hopefully it can be passed and be before the Senate before we break for luncheon.

I wonder whether the minister can tell us what his intentions are with respect to this bill and with respect to the legislative program for today and for next week.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, we always keep our word on this side of the House and we will continue to do so. Consequently we will, as indicated very clearly, first introduce Bill C-82. I thank the hon. members for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) and Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) for having agreed to a short debate on that bill in order to send it to the Senate around 12.45 p.m. so that it may get royal assent as soon as possible. Following passage of Bill C-82, we will keep our word and introduce the motion for adjournment motion of which I gave notice Wednesday last in the hope that such motion, in accordance with an understanding but not a firm agreement last week, will be passed to allow us to adjourn today.

However, if the opposition would rather not adjourn today, we will be considering Bill C-48 at the report stage on Monday.

[English]

Mr. Knowles: Madam Speaker, I rise simply for the purpose of confirming the agreement we made with respect to Bill C-82. The agreement was that we would deal with that bill

through all stages today and that there would be only one speaker per party. We stand by that agreement, and we trust that if their Honours in the other place pass it quickly there will be an arrangement for royal assent this afternoon, whatever else happens, so that Bill C-82 can come into effect right away.

Mr. Waddell: Madam Speaker, I wonder if I might ask the President of the Privy Council a question. He says the government intends to keep its word. He says, "We keep our word". The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources made a deal with the hon. member for Etobicoke Centre, the Conservative energy critic, that the report stage of Bill C-48 would not be proceeded with until the fall. I wonder if the President of the Privy Council could tell the House what has happened to keeping his word on that deal.

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, the government is keeping its word on that deal. I refer the hon. gentleman to the minutes of proceedings and evidence of the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works at page 63:5 and page 63:6, where the matter is stated very clearly. The hon. member for Edmonton East asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to be very specific and to make a commitment in the name of the government. The parliamentary secretary said, "Yes, I will speak in the name of the government," and here is what he said:

I shall undertake that the government will not bring this bill for third reading prior to our recess if this resolution carries your positive support.

MR. YURKO: Okay.

That is the agreement. What I am saying is that we will be dealing with the report stage of that bill, not with the third reading stage.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre made reference to royal assent a little later today. Could the government House leader tell us whether arrangements have been made for royal assent later today?

Mr. Pinard: Yes, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Wilson: Madam Speaker, with reference to what the President of the Privy Council just read out, I want to inform the House that in discussions I had with the minister, which were not on the record but between himself and myself, he told me, and his words were, "The bill will not be brought back to the House until the fall". To me, that means it will not be brought back for the report stage until the fall, and so I say to the government House leader that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is not keeping his word by bringing Bill C-48 forward for the report stage today.

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, I usually believe the hon. member. I was not party to the discussion he had with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, but I want it to be on the record that I spoke to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who confirmed to me that the only agreement he made was not to deal with the third reading stage of that