

Business of the House

My caucus colleagues and I urge parliamentarians to spend the approaching minute of silence thinking about their mothers, their wives, their daughters, and their sisters. Let those thoughts inspire December 6 to become, not only the day Canada's legislators realized that we had sacrificed 14 promising minds to the barrel of a gun, but also the day that Canada's legislators resolved not to trade another promising mind for mindless promises.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask hon. members to stand.

[*Editor's Note: The House stood in silence.*]

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WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, would the government House leader indicate to members of the House what the business of the House will be tomorrow and the remaining days of next week.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, tomorrow I would like to call Bill C-93 dealing with the Bretton Woods agreement for second reading, as well as Bill C-71 dealing with the UN convention on contracts, to complete the final stages, and Bill C-82, Port Wardens Act which has to do with Quebec harbours.

Monday will be the last allotted day, an opposition day. Tuesday, at this point I probably will call Bill C-84, Petro-Canada, although there is a possibility of calling Bill C-74. We will engage in discussions in that regard.

At this point in time, I am unable to give any indications for Wednesday, but the usual discussions among House leaders will occur over the next few days.

Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might put a supplementary question to the government House leader. As he knows, my own House leader presented to him on behalf of the government a resolution dealing with the release of hostages in Iraq.

As we know, the news today indicated that the President of Iraq has submitted to the Iraqi National Assembly a request that they approve the release of all nationals.

It would seem to me very appropriate that the resolution that was put forward by my colleagues from the New Democratic Party, the Conservative Party and from my party, the Liberal Party—a tri-party level—would be very timely in terms of endorsing that kind of move and to transmit a message to the Iraqi Assembly that we would like to see that action take place forthwith.

I wonder if the House leader could give us some commitment of time, perhaps on Monday. I am sure it would not take away from the House time because I think there would be an all-party agreement on that resolution.

Mr. Andre: Certainly, Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, I know, has possession of a draft of the resolution. I understand it is just a question of looking at the language and assuring himself, along with his officials, that in fact it would be helpful.

Along with the hon. member, I certainly welcome the news from Iraq. I hope that it turns out to be true and that all hostages, Canadians included, will be home soon.

Any actions that could be contemplated by this House that would facilitate that, I can assure the hon. member will get as expeditious treatment as possible and the full co-operation from this side of the House.

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, on the same point, I just want to indicate on behalf of my colleagues from the New Democratic party that we, too, fully support a resolution. Indeed, the member for Fundy Royal, the member for Winnipeg South Centre and myself did together draft a resolution.

There have been discussions. I hope that there will be an opportunity for this resolution to come before the House, particularly given the very encouraging news today that the Iraqi president, Saddam Hussein has agreed to the release of all foreign nationals, and, I might say, to the encouraging news from the Canadian perspective that the elderly Muslim couple, the Rustins, will be coming home tomorrow from Iraq.