

Business of the House

the government House leader with regard to the business of the House for Friday, Monday and Tuesday.

While I am on my feet, I wonder if the government House leader could inform the House as to whether or not Monday or Tuesday of next week will be set aside for the introduction of the government's comprehensive position with respect to the Constitution, whether the government House leader could indicate to the House if they have reached a decision with regard to the funding that will be made available for the committee, and whether or not there can be further discussions between respective House leaders of the various parties in order to make sure there is a clear understanding of the nature of the funding, where it will be going, and the amounts that will be involved.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, in terms of House business, let me say that it is my intention to call Bill C-21, the debt servicing bill, tomorrow for completion at second reading. Hopefully we will also be able to deal with the completion of third reading of Bill C-11.

On Monday it is my intention to begin second reading on Bill C-32, and I would like to have the usual discussions with opposition House leaders in terms of the business for the rest of the week.

With respect to the constitutional committee and its announcements, perhaps you will allow me, Mr. Speaker, to let the Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs answer those questions.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Privy Council and Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not do this very often, but just for greater certainty could I have the questions again.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if the minister who is now listening could inform the House as to whether or not Tuesday of next week will be set aside for the Prime Minister and respective leaders, the Leader of the Official Opposition and the leader of the NDP, and perhaps himself in terms of the government laying its proposal before Parliament with regard to constitutional reform, whether or not all the arrangements for the committee in terms of the funding and membership will be announced forthwith, or whether they are going to require further discussion among all parties.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his understanding of my brief predicament, which he has resolved.

It certainly would be our intention to have the Prime Minister present to Parliament on Tuesday morning, September 24, proposals for renewal of the Canadian federation with the expectation that that would provide an opportunity for the Leaders of the Official Opposition and the New Democratic Party to respond.

It would be my hope that there would be meetings with the relevant committees of the House today or tomorrow to give effect to the creation of the special joint committee that had been agreed to by the House earlier in the spring. I would hope that that committee would be in a position to hold its first meeting on Wednesday, September 25, when I would like to have the privilege of coming before the committee to present the proposals in more detail.

With respect to funding arrangements, those are matters that would have to be worked out by a committee of the House. I want to state a general inclination on the part of the government with regard to the functioning of this committee to seek for the most reasonable ways possible in which members of the three parties with standing in this House can work together to ensure that we achieve the kinds of reforms and changes that Canadians expect of us, and indeed, that we can involve to the greatest degree possible the imagination and the understanding of the people of the country in this process.

I have had some discussions with the Leader of the New Democratic Party regarding a particular question concerning participation of members who are not formal members of the committee. I think there has been an agreement worked out there that I trust and believe would recommend itself to all members of the committee.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to belabour the point. The minister has made reference that the committee will decide with regard to the funding for the purposes of research.

It was my understanding, and maybe I was under a false premise, that when I exchanged letters with the parliamentary secretary, which I believe the government House leader has, that we were going to have a decision sooner, as opposed to later, and that funding and the funding arrangements would not be funding which is