

Oral Questions

COMMUNICATIONS

INQUIRY RESPECTING NATION-WIDE TELIDON PROGRAM

Mr. Jacques Olivier (Longueuil): Madam Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Communications.

About a year ago, the Minister of Communications announced a subsidy to Telecable Videotron for the development of Telidon. About two weeks ago, the Minister of Communications also announced a commitment by the government to the Telidon program amounting to \$21 million. Can the minister assure the House that the Telidon program will be developed right across Canada and not only regionally?

Hon. Francis Fox (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, the nature of the news I announced last week with regard to Telidon is such that it should really encourage the Canadian industry, which is very much interested in that new technology in which we have a leading edge.

I am particularly happy that Telecable Videotron, which is firmly established on the south shore of Montreal, should participate in the pilot project and that the people there should be amongst the first to enjoy the benefits of that new technology. In addition, as a result of the expansion of Telecable-Videotron throughout the island of Montreal, several Montrealers will also be among the first Canadians to enjoy its advantages. I am also happy to tell the hon. member that similar pilot projects will be scattered throughout Canada.

More good news, Madam Speaker: yesterday, the great multinational Time-Life announced that it was going to choose the Canadian system's Telidon, over those of its great international competitors, namely, the French system, Antiope, and the English system, Prestel. Naturally, that is very good news for the whole Canadian information industry.

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[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—QUERY RESPECTING ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT OF CANADA

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the Prime Minister. There has been an announcement that the President of the United States and Mrs. Reagan have accepted the Governor General's invitation to visit Canada on March 10 and 11, 1981. Is the Prime Minister in a position today to indicate generally the program for that visit, and particularly is he in a position to say whether or not the president will be addressing Parliament?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the dates were only decided in a final way yesterday, and through our officials we are now trying to establish the agenda for those two days. If consideration is given to having

the president address the joint Houses, I would be happy to consult with the leaders of the opposition parties and determine their views on this.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

DISPOSITION OF BILL C-42

Hon. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I realize that tomorrow is the day for dealing with House business for the days that lie ahead. There was some urgency to the passage of Bill C-42, the bill under which the Post Office is to be turned into a Crown corporation. I wonder if the House leader could schedule a time when we might deal with that bill and get it passed, particularly so we can avoid a strike situation.

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, I will be happy to consult with the minister responsible and my colleagues, the House leaders on the other side, to try to deal with that bill as soon as possible.

An hon. Member: Thursday is tomorrow.

PRINTING OF ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, I am sure that members have noticed the unusual size of both the Order Paper and *Votes and Proceedings*. That is the result of the requirement that the entire text of the motion for an Address to Her Majesty be printed each day, in the case of *Votes and Proceedings* and *Hansard*, sometimes two or more times. Needless to say, this is a rather expensive and not entirely necessary practice.

After consulting the other House leaders, I believe there would be consent to permit the Table to devise an appropriate abbreviated form for use in the Order Paper, *Votes and Proceedings* and *Debates*, with the understanding that the full text of the main motion would be printed in the Monday Order Paper every week; that the full text of any amendment under consideration would be printed each day; and that *Votes and Proceedings* carry a full text on each day on which a vote is taken on an amendment and on the day that the matter is finally disposed of.

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): There have been consultations, and we are agreeable to the House order as stated by the government House leader.

Hon. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Madam Speaker, so are we.

Madam Speaker: The proposal of the hon. minister is agreed to.