

*Business of the House*

I simply want to indicate again my enthusiasm and my willingness to move expeditiously through the usual channels to see if we can facilitate arriving at ways and means of allowing additional debates on important and topical issues.

I have two questions. One concerns the budget. February is the normal time when we look forward to a budget. I wonder if the minister can give us some indication of what would be an appropriate time, or his best guess at this time, for a budget to be presented in the House. Since we are indicating the business coming up, I believe the government House leader indicated that next Wednesday would be an allotted day. Perhaps to provide for ease of preparations and planning, since it is an opposition day and will be a New Democrat sponsored motion, we will be indicating that we will be putting forward a motion on the protection of marketing boards and the opposition to tariffication to debate and we are likely to vote next Wednesday.

• (1510)

**Mr. Andre:** In terms of the budget, as the hon. member knows, in 1984 when this government was elected we did establish the practice of bringing down the budget at the same time as the spending estimates.

To us it makes sense that they come down together and not be separated by many months, as used to be the case. The taxes and the spending ought to be related. It is our hope to keep that pattern. The specific date I cannot give the hon. member at this point.

I welcome the news that the hon. member has indicated that his party would like to discuss this important subject of GATT and marketing boards next Wednesday. By putting it to a vote, I have to remind the House that as an allotted day, the motion is a motion of confidence. That forces the government to vote in opposition to the motion, whatever it might say, because allotted days were designed as a substitute for challenging the estimates.

Every motion and every vote is a confidence vote, so in advance I have to say that we will probably support the tenor of the motion because we are very much supportive of marketing boards. Very clearly, our position at GATT is completely consistent with the position that the

producers have suggested we take. There is no space between us and the producers on this matter.

If a motion is put forward to that effect on an allotted day, we may have to vote against because it is a confidence motion. That is one of the other nuances of our rules that perhaps we should be looking at, but that is the effect of calling for a vote.

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend has identified a problem that we are confronted with from time to time.

As he knows and I think much to our pleasure, the House is master of its own destiny. With unanimous consent we can agree to virtually anything we want in terms of proceeding with business.

It would be my intent at the appropriate time next week, after consultations with members, to put the question that we seek unanimous consent so that we will not consider the vote next Wednesday to be a vote of confidence.

I think that would be a way, if I can help the hon. minister, to get around this dilemma.

**Mr. Andre:** Without carrying on this debate on the floor of the House of Commons, that does not help the government as the hon. member knows.

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** My question is also to the government House leader.

As the minister is well aware, I wrote to him and raised in the House the issue of the royal commission on election expenses and election financing. Presumably it will be reporting to the government very soon and presumably to the public at an early date.

I wonder if the government has made any arrangements for the House of Commons to deal with and study the proposed legislation that will be part of that royal commission's report.

**Mr. Andre:** I have not yet. I have had some preliminary discussions with House leaders opposite and will be making a firm proposal in that regard shortly, perhaps even tomorrow.

The report of the royal commission will be distributed one day next week. The only reason for not knowing that day is in the interests of all Canadians having access to it at the same time. It needs to be transported around the country.