

the population before we can proceed with an amendment in that regard. This is what we intend to discuss with the provinces at the first opportunity.

With respect to the expansion of the Canada Pension Plan, I have announced in the Budget immediate measures that we would like to see implemented if the provinces, as they are likely to do, will agree. For instance, there is the possibility of improving one measure which I have announced specifically in the Budget, but have forgotten its name. I will check.

We also have discussed enlarging disability benefits, with the provinces, which would also mean an expansion of the plan. We are ready to discuss these issues with the provinces at the first opportunity, and if we can get agreement we will come up with specific additional proposals to the House dealing with both of these issues. Indeed, we are in favour of both aspects.

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INCOME TAX ACT

TAKING OF TAXPAYERS' STATEMENTS UNDER OATH— MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. John Gamble (York North): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue who will recognize that one of the administrative provisions of the Income Tax Act that flies in the face of what everyone must probably believe is basic justice, is a provision contained in Section 231(1)(c). That provision permits assessors to obtain from taxpayers statements under oath in the course of their investigations which then may be used in a prosecution that may follow the obtaining of such statement under oath.

Having regard to the concept of nonself incrimination by individuals who are subsequently accused of criminal offences, what view does the Minister have with respect to this specific provision of the Act? Will he take steps to remove the same?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Hon. Member would care to examine various provisions of the Income Tax Act which are very specific and reflect the very nature of this legislation and the kind of tax system we have in Canada. If he does, he will see that these provisions exist because of the nature of the legislation and the tax system we have in Canada.

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[English]

PETITIONS

TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Wednesday, March 21, 1984 meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

Standing Orders

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Government House Leader what the business will be for tomorrow and next week? It may help him in his response if I tell him that if he were to call Bill C-3, the Canada Health Act, on Monday, in all likelihood it will get through the entire report stage.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, first of all, consultations have led to an agreement for adopting forthwith, without debate, the motion appearing on the Order Paper in the Government's name, actually in my name, under No. 11 on page 16. If you would call the motion proposing to make the Committee on Official Languages a Standing Committee, I can confirm, since there has been consultation, that you will obtain unanimous consent for adopting the motion without debate or amendment. I would therefore ask the Chair to call motion No. 11, a motion in my name, which is as follows:

"(d) On Official Languages policy and programs to act as members on the part of this House on the Joint Committee of both Houses, to consist of 15 members;"

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The President of the Privy Council has suggested that there might be consent to put motion No. 11 standing on the Order Paper under Government Orders to the House. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

STANDING ORDERS

AMENDMENT RESPECTING JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council) moved:

That Standing Order 69(3) be amended by adding the following:

"(d) On Official Languages policy and programs to act as members on the part of this House on the Joint Committee of both Houses, to consist of 15 members;"

And that a message be sent to the Senate requesting that that House do unite with this House for the above purpose and to select, if the Senate deems it to be advisable, certain members to represent that House on the proposed Joint Committee.—

Motion agreed to.