

urgent bill within a very short period of time in the very near future.

Third, in respect of North-South, this is a subject that is very important to the Prime Minister, to this party and to this Parliament. I welcome the suggestion made by the hon. member. It deserves to be considered very seriously and I intend to raise that matter at a future meeting of House leaders so that if the opposition is willing to give some of its allotted days then it might be easier for the government to try also to give a bit of its time, which is very precious and needed for all the programs about which I talked earlier. We are willing to take that into very serious consideration in the very near future.

Mr. Knowles: Madam Speaker, a week ago today I asked the government House leader if he would discuss with the Prime Minister the possibility of his making a statement on North-South arising from his trip. Of course the government House leader had to leave it to the Prime Minister. Is there any chance of that being implemented, having a statement on motions by the Prime Minister on his recent trip and on North-South generally?

An hon. Member: That used to be the practice.

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, I hear the comment that that used to be the practice. Let us take into consideration the fact that we are dealing now with a Parliament which follows two elections within a year and which has a very special and heavy burden that former Parliaments did not face. These are very special circumstances. In any case, the Prime Minister answered questions on the subject during the question period. I do not want to use an allotted day to ask the Prime Minister to make that statement, thereby depriving the opposition of their precious time. I think the suggestion made previously by the hon. member is much more sound. That suggestion deserves serious consideration and I would prefer to consider the possibility of using allotted days, and perhaps some government time, to deal with this issue. In the meanwhile, the Prime Minister is here every day and I am sure he is delighted to answer questions on that very important subject.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I have just one thing to add that I neglected to say when I was last on my feet, and that is to indicate my agreement in respect of the proposals regarding the customs tariff bill. Our speaker will be the hon. member for Edmonton West.

Madam Speaker: Is the hon. member for Don Valley West rising on a point of order?

Mr. Bosley: Madam Speaker, I rise—

Madam Speaker: I am sorry, but I want to know if the hon. member is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Bosley: Yes, I rise on a point of order.

Madam Speaker: On government business?

Mr. Bosley: It is about House business.

Privilege—Miss Bégin

Madam Speaker: Very well.

Mr. Bosley: Last week, on Wednesday, the Minister of Labour and the Secretary of State for Communications agreed that they would appoint a special mediator in regard to the Montreal French CBC strike. My understanding is that the mediator or special envoy has now reported. This matter is very important to us in the House, Madam Speaker, and I only ask whether we are going to get—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. This is not a point of order addressed to what we call government business. If the hon. member has a point of order to raise, I will recognize him later. Just so the hon. member realizes, I am trying to hear hon. members in the order in which they have asked for the floor. We have others who have asked for the floor on certain questions which have to be dealt with before that which the hon. member is talking about, and I will recognize him with pleasure later.

[Translation]

I have received notice of a question of privilege from the hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare whom I now recognize.

* * *

PRIVILEGE

MISS BÉGIN—STATEMENT MADE BY MR. CLARK

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege which, through you, affects the privileges of all hon. members in the House and which I relate to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) and to an incident yesterday. Anyone in the House who reads yesterday's *Hansard* will notice. I think, a very serious breach of privilege on which I want to comment today.

[English]

Page 6410 of *Hansard* of the debates yesterday indicates to us that in the middle of an exchange between members during the question period, after you had called some members to order the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition at one point said clearly, and we all heard him and, of course, it is recorded in *Hansard*:

So much for an impartial Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Miss Bégin: This was broadcast across the country from coast to coast, and it has been reprinted in some newspapers in French and in English.

● (1520)

It seems to me that this has brought an amplification across the country of an attack against the authority and impartiality