

*Business of the House*

Expansion, or whatever he is called today? To whom do we ask questions relating to this particular department?

**Mr. Pinard:** Madam Speaker, we will introduce legislation some time later. In the meantime, I will keep the hon. member for Yukon aware of the question.

**Mr. Nielsen:** That is what you think.

**Mr. Pinard:** And the hon. member for Yukon will be in the position to give the right answers to the hon. member.

**An hon. Member:** For the first time.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Madam Speaker:** Could I ask that only members who want to discuss government business rise before I go to questions of privilege?

**Mr. Lawrence:** Madam Speaker, I think you have already been presented by the Clerk of the House with a copy of Beauchesne. Page 25, Section 81(1), indicates that in all cases questions of privilege must take priority. I view this as very important. Questions of privilege take priority over government business, in fact over everything, especially when a matter arises as a result of what occurred in question period.

Two members at least have been attempting to rise on a question of privilege on matters arising from question period, namely, the Solicitor General and myself. The Solicitor General gave me notice first that he intended to raise a certain matter and I have been attempting to defer my question of privilege to his, which I suspect is along the same lines. May I mercifully point out to you, in the most polite and submissive way that I can, that Section 81(1) states that a question of privilege takes priority over everything.

**Madam Speaker:** The hon. member is quite right. A question of privilege is defined precisely by the fact that it has to be dealt with in an urgent manner. There is an arrangement in this House whereby government business on Thursday is dealt with immediately after question period. That is an arrangement between the House leaders which I follow.

Today questions about government business have come up. I have taken them in the order in which they are usually taken because that helps other members who have other duties to attend to, especially the House leaders. They can, therefore, leave the House if they are not concerned with what is to follow. The hon. member is right but I have no choice but to follow the arrangements which are transmitted to me by the House leaders.

**Mr. Skelly:** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the government House leader concerning future business. There were commitments made about a proposal to create a department of marine transportation, on which the Prime Minister commented, as well as the implementation of a marine industrial strategy, a policy for acquiring marine equipment in Canada and the bringing of foreign-registered ships into Canada.

Does the government have any intention of developing any of those marine industrial programs so that Canadian marine workers will have jobs, instead of—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. This seems to me to be a question that could be asked during question period. It does not deal with government business.

**Mr. Rae:** Madam Speaker, the last time we met on December 18, before the House adjourned for the Christmas recess, the Minister of Finance made a statement to the House. I have a question for the government House leader which relates directly to what the minister said. On page 14237 of *Hansard*, the minister is reported as having said:

In addition to what I said, Mr. Speaker, given appropriate parliamentary arrangements, I am prepared to consider referring several matters to a parliamentary committee.

Further down the page we find the following:

These matters include rules relating to corporate reorganization, taxation of whole life insurance—

The minister included charitable foundations, retirement allowances and work in progress. Specifically, would the government House leader give us an interpretation of what the minister means when he said “prepared to consider referring several matters to a parliamentary committee”? Can he tell us when these matters will be referred to a parliamentary committee and in what form they will be referred? Can he also give us the assurance that those sections of the ways and means motion which relate to those matters will be withdrawn until such time as they have been considered by that parliamentary committee?

• (1540)

Those are my three very specific questions. I wonder if the government House leader could deal with them since they very directly relate to remarks made in the last sitting by the Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Pinard:** Yes, Madam Speaker, I will inquire of the Minister of Finance and will gladly report to the hon. member through his House leader.

**Mr. Keeper:** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the government House leader. I would like to know when or if the government will introduce legislation into this House to provide for a program of employment through municipalities across this country, particularly given the fact that the government recently cut back on funding to municipalities and therefore added to the unprecedented high level of unemployment in this country. When will the government introduce an employment program applied through the municipalities to create some employment in this country to get the economy moving again?

**Mr. Pinard:** Madam Speaker, I will inquire of the minister responsible for such policy, and if it is the intention of the government to introduce any legislation, I will be glad to let the hon. member know through his House leader.