

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I intend to table the agenda as soon as I have the concurrence of all the provincial premiers, and I think that that will be early next week.

Mr. Alexander: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the answer given by the Prime Minister, I wonder if the Prime Minister would, if it pleases him, make a statement as soon as possible after the federal-provincial conference as to the government's intention or policy with respect to our urban problems?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated to the House that, following the December conference, if the opposition parties agree we would seek an occasion to discuss the whole constitutional matter in the House, as has been done after the previous federal-provincial conferences on the constitution.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Communications. In light of the minister's view as expressed at Sir George Williams University that all Members of Parliament should act and think independently of party ties, has the minister, first of all, asked that he be relieved of his party's whip and whether this explains the absence of government members in the House yesterday?

HOUSING

INQUIRY AS TO ALLOWANCES

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister without Portfolio in charge of housing. In view of the statement by the President of CMHC to the Senate Committee on Poverty that housing allowances should be part of a system to provide decent housing for all Canadians, what steps does the minister intend to take?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think a statement of this nature should normally be made on motions.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

NEWFOUNDLAND—INQUIRY AS TO DISCUSSION WITH PREMIER

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. Can he indicate whether he

will be holding discussions tomorrow with the Premier of the Province of Newfoundland and whether we can anticipate, as a result of these discussions, that there will be formal agreement by the federal-provincial authorities on the regional development program for that province?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me the question is speculative—if I am having meetings and whether there will be formal agreement. I cannot answer what will result from any meetings with the Premier, assuming I am going to have any.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Prime Minister left an impression that might be a bit misleading. I did not hear him indicate that he will be holding discussions with Premier Smallwood and perhaps he has left an impression that should be cleared up.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I merely rise now to ask the Government House Leader if he would outline the business for the week, as is customary.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Yes, Mr. Speaker. On Friday and on Monday of next week under the heading of Order No. 32 there will be debate on the reference of the Tax White Paper, anticipated to be a two-day debate. We will ask for a special order by the House to allow the maximum number of participants in the debate. On Tuesday of next week we will call Order No. 10, the annual bill for financing the CNR, the second reading stage of which has already been under debate. Following that we will take the items with respect to the four financial institutions, Orders Nos. 42, 43, 44 and 45. These four bills were on the Order Paper in the last session and we are asking to have them dealt with by special order on second reading as a group.

On Wednesday we will call first Order No. 6, the Canada Corporations Act, which has already been under debate, to be followed by the report stage and third reading of item No. 4 with respect to the Judges Act. On Thursday we will return to yesterday's unfinished business, third reading of Bill C-155 with respect to the Excise Tax Act to be followed