

Business of the House

Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, the answer was really contained in the question of the hon. member for Prince George-Peace River, in that he said there were officials from a number of departments working on this issue. I think it is fair to say that recommendations and a brief on the total issue have been given to myself, the Minister of Finance and other ministers of the government reviewing the situation, and at such time as there is a change in policy that will be announced in the usual way.

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PETITIONS

TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has laid upon the Table reports of the Clerk of Petitions stating that he has examined the petitions presented by hon. members on Wednesday, October 21, 1981, and finds that they meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, I have the usual question on House business. I presume we will be carrying on for the remainder of this week with Bill C-48, and that in all probability we will be carrying on next week with Bill C-48 as well. That seems to be the intention of the government. I wonder whether the government House leader would confirm that.

Secondly, it would appear that November 10 will be the likely date of a budget. The first estimate was the end of October, then it was November 3 and now it is November 10. Assuming that is going to be the date of the budget, I have had several members approach me with respect to the time-honoured practice of this House to adjourn for the Remembrance Day weekend in time to permit members to attend Remembrance Day ceremonies in their ridings.

The government House leader will know that certainly those of us who live in the far west will not be able to get home at all for Remembrance Day ceremonies if the budget, indeed, is to be presented on November 10. Is there any arrangement the government is considering which might ensure a continuation of that practice so the veterans of this country will not be slighted by our being kept here for November 10?

The third question I have for the House leader has to do with the motion standing on today's Order Paper in the name of the hon. member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe:

That the Eighth Report of the Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and other Statutory Instruments, presented to the House on Tuesday, June 30, 1981, be concurred in.

I was informed by the hon. member after I came into the House for the question period that he has been requested by

that committee to bring on that report for discussion this week. While I can understand the impossibility of that occurring this week, I have also been asked by the hon. member, who is co-chairman of that committee, to determine if it would be possible to accommodate a debate on that report next Monday. The House leader knows we had a brief discussion on this just prior to two o'clock, but it was not until after two o'clock that I learned for certain that the hon. member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe, who is co-chairman of the committee, had been specifically requested by his committee to bring that report on this week.

I wonder if the government House leader might cover those three points.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Regarding the first point, Madam Speaker, yes, we intend to continue considering Bill C-48, the Canada Oil and Gas Act, today, tomorrow and during most of next week, and we hope to conclude the debate before the end of next week. In any event, the order of business is always subject to change, prior notice being given, and in this respect, my hon. colleague should know that the schedule may be changed at any time, if necessary, to end the debate on the Constitution. Normally, unless there is a change in the order of business, which is the government's responsibility as my colleague is well aware, we should be dealing with Bill C-48 today, tomorrow, and during most of next week.

As far as Remembrance Day is concerned, the hon. member is aware that under the Standing Order 2(3), the House does not sit on Remembrance Day. This year, November 11 is a Wednesday. I am told that most ceremonies to honour our veterans take place on the preceding Sunday.

An hon. Member: Yes, but not for the veterans—

Mr. Pinard: Regarding the request for the committee report, request No. 8 by the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Beatty), I have explained several times that in view of the business on the Order Paper and the many measures this Parliament must consider, under Standing Order 18(2), the government intends to use its prerogative to select the subjects to be debated each day, except of course on the opposition days the government is required to allow. So if the hon. member wants to discuss the report, even if it is at the request of his committee, we shall have no alternative, as I have already explained to him and to the predecessor of the member for Yukon, but to introduce a motion either to adjourn the debate or to proceed with the orders of the day, so that the government can deal with its legislative program and priorities, as provided under the rules of the House.

Once more, I am surprised this matter is being raised again, since at this stage of the session we have no alternative but to pressure members to expedite the government measures listed on the Order Paper. Again, I would ask the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe to be patient and not to make