

Petitions

● (1500)

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I can see by the colour of his coat that my hon. friend expects a Liberal Government at least until the year 2003. I would like to give him the assurance that, in my next 20 years as Minister of Finance, that will be an issue of high priority. The issue will be studied, I hope, by the parliamentary task force that is being set up, and that task force will examine the green paper that the Government has released recently.

The issue of the financing of the Canada Pension Plan was also raised at the last federal-provincial meeting of the Ministers of Finance. We spent some time discussing it. It was agreed, however, at that meeting, that next year, 1983, would not be an appropriate year to raise the contribution to the Canada Pension Plan, or to the Quebec Pension Plan. Taking into account the situation of the economy, it was felt that this was not an appropriate time to raise, however slightly, the contributions to the public pension plan.

The issue will be addressed, however, by the parliamentary committee and we have agreed that the Provinces and the federal Government would follow those discussions and there would also be discussions on the subject during the course of the year, between officials.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS**SPEAKER'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Madam Speaker: Members will have received a note in their offices to invite them to join in the good cheer, after the adjournment of the House, in Room 16.

[*Translation*]

I therefore invite the Members, after the adjournment of the House, to Room 16 so that we can all get together before the Christmas holidays.

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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 Tuesday, December 21, 1982, and finds that they meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

[*English*]**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE****DISPOSITION OF BILL C-141**

Mr. MacGuigan: Madam Speaker, for quite some time many people in the country, including especially members of disabled and women's groups, and many Members of the House, including I think all Members on this side and Members of the NDP, have hoped that we would be able to give complete passage through both Houses of Parliament to Bill C-141, the amendment to the Canadian Human Rights Act.

Mr. Clark: That is the Bill you would not table.

Mr. MacGuigan: The Hon. Leader of the Opposition can show what he wants to do by what his Party is now prepared to do.

Last night we got this Bill through committee, and the Hon. House Leader of the Official Opposition suggested that the House today give report stage and third reading to this Bill, without debate. We hope that we may have unanimous consent from both Opposition Parties to do this.

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, I did not expect this kind of underhanded tactics from the Minister of Justice today. First they want us to pass second reading without even knowing what is in the Bill, without even having an opportunity to read it. Now they want us to pass it through report and third reading stages, without even having a word to say about it.

Had he been in consultation, which I am sure he was, with his colleague, the Government House Leader, he would have known the extent to which we are prepared to co-operate in getting this legislation passed. He would have known that we were prepared, and are prepared now. If he is listening he might consult with his colleague, the Government House Leader. We are prepared to deal, on this short day, with all remaining stages of that Bill, and see to it that it passes today.

I have had some consultations with gentlemen in the other place, and they assure me that it presents them with no problem if they get the Bill today.

In that spirit of co-operation, we make that offer to the Government.

The alternative would be to go on to Bill C-131 today, which is a lost day in any event because we know that that legislation is not going to pass today. If the Government is really sincere about wanting the human rights legislation, they will call it as the first order of business today. It will be dealt with today and dealt with, as I said last night, expeditiously.

There is another alternative. If they wish to call the human rights legislation first, I still assure the Government House Leader that we will deal with it expeditiously to the point where there will still be time remaining in the day to go back to Bill C-131, if that is the Government's desire.

Mr. Deans: Madam Speaker, notwithstanding the fact that we in this Party find some parts of the Bill to be offensive, particularly Section 14(2), which is particularly patronizing to