

*Business of the House*

**Hon. Gilles Loiselle (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, since they have not asked us anything I do not know what I would say.

I would be tempted to tell them that they are not primarily a financial institution, but a commercial organization that has grown into some financial activity. I would be tempted to tell them that they are not widely owned like American Express, that they are not publicly traded in some instances and therefore that in my view at this time they would not be acceptable.

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## WEEKLY STATEMENT

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the government House leader what business he has in mind for the new few days, possibly leading up to next Thursday.

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Madam Speaker, I will try to answer that question, but it becomes increasingly difficult. In trying to project the business for the week it is based on certain assumptions as to what members of the opposition tell us and what the Standing Orders say. I found out that words can be changed rather quickly in the Standing Orders with respect to notice or notice for the bureaucrats at the table and not notice for the House.

With those caveats, let me say that it appears that tomorrow and Monday will be opposition days, with Monday being the last allotted day. On Tuesday, we may return to second reading of Bill C-65, if it is not passed today. Alternatively, we could call Bill C-69, which is the bill dealing with restraint, for second reading.

My priorities for the rest of this month are Bill C-51, the Income Tax Act amendments and Bill C-26, the Railway Act amendments from the budget of last year. We will have to get together and send another message to those ladies and gentlemen in the other place who will not accept the will of the majority of elected representatives. That is the best I can do at this point in time.

**Mr. Gauthier:** That is more than I bargained for or expected. Basically we have a program for possibly a month here. The House leader and I know that in this period there are two remaining opposition days. It is not

his fault or mine, but that is the way the cookie crumbles in terms of opposition days. Whether or not he likes it, that is the way it is going to be tomorrow and Monday.

On Tuesday, I take it that Bill C-65 will be the order of the day. The hon. minister said he hoped or was not sure, but I would like to have some kind of assurance from him. Indeed he cannot say that we have not kept our word. When I have given my word to him, I have kept it.

For the sake of good planning and because of the necessity of getting our people ready for good debate, I would like to ask him to confirm that on Tuesday we will be debating Bill C-65.

**Mr. Andre:** Let me say very clearly and absolutely that the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier has never gone back on his word and has recognized that the proper way to conduct business is for us to discuss these matters and for people to keep their word. I apologize, without reservation, if I left that impression.

The fundamental problem is that I had assumed that 48 hours' notice meant 48 hours' notice to me, but apparently it only means 48 hours to the bureaucrats. That caused our plans to be disrupted. We will have to find some way of having the Standing Orders reflect information to the House.

In any event I would like to assure that it is my intention. The reason for the word "may" is so that I am not accused of breaking my word; there are other matters which may cause me to be pushed off my schedule. I am not trying to be devious. I just do not want to say it "shall" occur and then go back on my word to the hon. member.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Madam Speaker, I know the Clerk of the House and his staff bristle when they are called "bureaucrats". I just wanted to make sure that that word could be struck from the minister's vocabulary, because we consider the Clerk and his staff as servants of the House of Commons, not bureaucrats.

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina—Lumsden):** Madam Speaker, would the government House leader not think it wise to hold off calling Bill C-26, to amend the Railway Act, until the Speaker has rendered a ruling on the rightness or wrongness of the legislation and how it is being dealt with by the government? Depending on the Speaker's ruling, the government may find that it has either to withdraw or make substantial changes to the proposed legislation. Does the hon. minister not think it