

Business of the House

particular regard to page 50 which talks about the implementation and review process? Having regard to his experience, would he consider recommending to his colleagues in government that there be special consideration in Parliament given to the findings of the report, and the recommendations of Miss McDougall, and that there be responses from the government as to its intentions with respect to the findings? Would he undertake to the House that that would be his recommendation, that Parliament will have a chance to look at these in depth outside the estimates process?

Mr. MacGuigan: Madam Speaker, when the government has a position on the report we will be releasing it. I will not give any advance commitments to the hon. member, except to assure him that I will read that page very carefully.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON SERVICE MORALE

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, regarding a statement on the report, on Tuesday of this week the minister said in a press conference that his general experience with the foreign service had been that morale was very good. Could the minister explain this? Has he been shielded from the morale problem in the department by his senior officers, or is he denying the validity of the findings of the McDougall report?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I was not at that time commenting upon the McDougall report, nor do I intend to do so now. But may I say that I have a good deal of experience in meeting foreign service officers in all parts of the world. If the hon. member will read the text of Miss McDougall's press conference he will see that she herself stated that the report puts things out of focus, that on balance it is a good foreign service with good morale. By singling out the various problems with it in the report, she said at her press conference that this gives an over-all false impression, that she is picking out spots rather than commenting upon the whole.

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[Translation]

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, December 16, 1981, and finds that they meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, may I ask the government House leader what the business will be for tomorrow, and in the event that we might possibly finish Bill C-53 before adjournment today, whether there is anything for back-up, and as far as he can take us into the new year after January 25.

I am sorry the Minister of Finance is not here, but while I am on my feet I ask the government House leader to refer to *Hansard* of November 27, 1981, at page 13384, where the Minister of Finance stipulated that he would be providing the hon. member for Calgary West with a breakdown of the scientific study which would show the impact on senior citizens in this country of his indirect taxes on their capacity to buy food, to pay rent and to buy clothing. This was followed up with a letter from the hon. member for Calgary West on December 7 requesting that information which has not yet been supplied. Before we adjourn tomorrow, perhaps the government House leader might consult the Minister of Finance in the hope that that information might be provided tomorrow.

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, on the last point, I will talk to the Minister of Finance and inquire about the matter. So far as House business is concerned for the rest of today, as the hon. member mentioned we will deal with Bill C-53. There is an understanding among House leaders to obtain second reading of the bill before the end of the day. If we were to obtain second reading of the bill earlier than ten o'clock tonight, the next item of business would be Bill C-10.

Also we discussed earlier the quick adoption through all stages of a bill related to the National Energy Board. This could be done either today or tomorrow. Subject to further talks, we will decide later whether we will bring it on today or tomorrow.

So far as the business for tomorrow is concerned, if hon. members opposite do not wish to have an allotted day, we will deal with the bill respecting the National Energy Board, if it is not disposed of today, as first item of business. The second item of business for tomorrow will be Bill C-11 through all stages, followed by Bill C-45 through all stages. This is the fruit of our negotiations and it was agreed among ourselves in the spirit of Christmas, I assume. Later in the afternoon we were supposed to have royal assent on a few bills. If necessary, we will resume debate tomorrow on Bill C-10, if it has not been dealt with and terminated today. But Bill C-10 would be the last item of business for tomorrow.

[Translation]

As regards the business of the House after the Christmas recess, Madam Speaker, the hon. members are aware that the period between January 25, when the House resumes its sittings, and March 26 is a supply period during which the government must allot the opposition a total of seven days, the first of which will either be tomorrow or Tuesday, January 26, when we come back. The opposition could then discuss the topic of its choice, as is customary. In addition, on Monday