

*Business of the House**[Translation]*

Mr. Pinard: With pleasure, Madam Speaker. If we can conclude the debate on the motion to refer to committee the resolution on the constitution fairly soon, perhaps even tonight, we could, pending the budget speech, proceed with consideration of three bills which are quite important and urgent, as my hon. colleague well knows. We could proceed with consideration of the motion to refer to committee, as soon as possible, Bill C-42 to establish the Canada Post Corporation. As my colleague will recall, the Postmaster General (Mr. Ouellet) raised the matter just before the summer recess. He is no doubt well aware that postal employees are anxious to see this bill passed by Parliament, and I am certain that he will show his customary sense of responsibility so that the special committee can discuss the constitution and Parliament can consider important pieces of legislation such as Bill C-42 on the Post Office, and Bill C-43, which these questions of privilege have alluded to and which deals with access to information. The bill is before the House and should be considered as soon as possible, along with the Bank Act, which has yet to be passed at the report and third reading stages, and receive royal assent by November 30 of this year.

[English]

I want to take advantage of this situation and to point out to my hon. colleagues that the constitution is very important, the budget will be very important, and the energy matter will be very important, but we still have some 30 bills on the order paper, and three of them are very urgent. I just talked about them, and I refer to Bills C-42, C-43, and C-6.

If my hon. colleagues want to co-operate, they should understand that after the committee stage of debate on the resolution there will be a third stage on the floor of the House of Commons to deal with the report of the committee. There will be ample time to deal with the constitutional issue on the floor of this House. It might be useful to agree to the motion to refer the constitution resolution to the committee as soon as possible, hopefully tonight or, at the latest, at the beginning of next week, so that this House can be in a position to deal with the economy, as requested by the hon. member's own leader, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark), to deal with the bills I just talked about and to deal with the other important and major issues this country is now facing.

Next Wednesday will be an allotted day. I had wanted to designate tomorrow, but it will be on Wednesday next. I would like that to be clear. We talked about Friday, but next Wednesday will be the next allotted day.

If my hon. colleague has further questions, I would be delighted to try to provide him with some answers.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I appreciate that. As the government House leader knows, the government chooses the order of business, and it has chosen to bring a resolution before the House. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) invited all hon. members to participate in the debate. Frankly, as a member of this House, I appreciate that. I am

going to be participating in the debate this afternoon. I look forward to that, and I know there are other hon. members who look forward to it. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Chrétien) set the parameters of this debate in the course of his speech when he indicated the importance of this particular stage.

I just want to make the record clear that the government can choose the business of the House as it wants to, and we will deal with it. I know the position the government House leader is in. I sympathize with him completely, and he must know that.

As far as the opposition day is concerned, the remarks of the government House leader were quite in order. However, it would be helpful to the business of the House, and I ask the minister this as part of my point of order, if he would prevail upon the Minister of Justice not to leave these polls, with such information as they contain, at the Canadian Unity Office and at every other government department around town so that we have to go all over town to get whatever information is available. The press has to do that. There is no gathering together of it. I wish the government House leader would prevail upon his friend, the Minister of Justice, to do what is normal, to come into the House, table the questions, the polls and the results, and also table the analyses of those polls which were referred to in this matter as being available for commercial purposes by Goldfarb. I wish the government House leader would prevail upon the Minister of Justice to do all those things, table them here and then end the dispute.

I think it is important that the government House leader should know that this matter is not merely procedural. He may regard it as such, but it is not. If these are attitudinal polls with respect to the attitude of the public of Canada about the issue before Parliament, then they go much further than that, and if he wants to facilitate business he had better do a bit of facilitating himself.

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, on the first part of the remarks made by my hon. colleague, this is the first indication I have had that his party intends to prolong the debate on the first phase.

Mr. Papproski: Oh, come on, Pinard.

Mr. Nielsen: It is what the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) told us.

Mr. Cousineau: We listened to the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker). Wait until the minister has finished.

Mr. Beatty: Did you speak in the debate, Pinard? We want the same right.

Mr. Pinard: Perhaps I misunderstood the hon. member. Perhaps hon. members opposite intend to let it go fairly quickly. If so, I appreciate that, because what the Prime Minister said, and what I am also saying—and I wonder why hon. members opposite are crying about it—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!