

*Business of the House*

I refer to a letter written by the Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn) to the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) and dated April 11, 1988 which reads:

Dear Joe:

Enclosed is some material from my constituent, John Hart.

Three black ministers from the UNITA side were here under the auspices of the United Church of Canada (Joe, this is the red church that I belong to, indeed I sometimes call it the "communist church of Canada").

I rise both as a Member of this House and as a member and an ordained minister of the United Church of Canada to say that this description of the United Church of Canada infringes upon my rights as a Member of Parliament to be able to speak out on a wide variety of issues. It casts a reflection on me when I attempt to articulate positions that have been taken by the United Church of Canada. It casts reflections upon members of all three Parties who happen to be members of the United Church of Canada, and I submit that this is a violation of my privilege.

The letter might be dismissed as a facetious comment from a Member who is known sometimes for making facetious comments, but on further reflection I do not believe that it can be so lightly dismissed. First, the letterhead clearly defines the Hon. Member as the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have listened carefully to the Hon. Member who very kindly gave me a copy of the letter prior to Question Period. I am having some difficulty, although there may be a complaint here, in seeing a question of privilege.

First, the Hon. Member for Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands (Mr. Manly) is not named. He is one among many hundreds of thousands of Canadians who are members of this particular church. Whether the remark is said facetiously or otherwise, it is difficult to see just in what way that makes it more difficult for the Hon. Member for Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands to carry out his duties as a Member of Parliament.

I do not know whether other Members wish to intervene. While there may be and obviously there is to the Hon. Member a complaint here, I am afraid that I cannot find a question of privilege.

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**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

## WEEKLY STATEMENT

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Deputy Government House Leader for his customary statement of Government Business.

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that

tomorrow will be an allotted day. Monday will also be an allotted day.

The House will know that on Tuesday at 11 a.m. there will be an address in the Chamber by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. In the afternoon we will sit at two o'clock for Members' Statements and Question Period, followed by Government Orders. On Tuesday afternoon we will proceed either with Bill C-103, dealing with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, and/or we will try to complete Bill C-113, the western diversification legislation.

However, I should point out that we may have to debate the time allocation motion we were forced to put on the floor in an effort to get this very important Bill through the House because there was a filibuster from the New Democratic Party. Either way, that will be the Business of the House until next Tuesday.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[English]

**GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION ACT, ATLANTIC CANADA, 1987**

## MEASURE TO ENACT

**Hon. Doug Lewis (for the Prime Minister)** moved that Bill C-103, an Act to increase opportunity for economic development in Atlantic Canada, to establish the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation and to make consequential and related amendments to other Acts, be read the third time and passed.

**Mr. Lawrence I. O'Neil (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso):** Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise at this time and participate in the debate on Bill C-103, an Act to increase opportunity for economic development in Atlantic Canada, to establish the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation. It gives me particular pleasure to speak on this important regional development initiative. I entered public life in an effort to improve the economic circumstances of the region that I represent and in an effort to participate in the process of improving the economic lot of the ordinary men and women in the region of Nova Scotia that I represent.

We live in an area of Canada that is a so-called "have not" area, which simply means in the Canadian context that the economic opportunities are less than in the more prosperous areas of Canada like Ontario and parts of Quebec. Nevertheless over the years we have worked at the national level and through our provincial representatives to put in place a series of initiatives and incentives that were to go a long way toward erasing national economic inequality. There has been some success.