

the Standing Committees of the House. I would like to inform my colleagues in the House that we intend to move that this report be concurred in as soon as possible, namely tomorrow, immediately after the oral question period.

[English]

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Madam Speaker, earlier this week the Government House Leader (Mr. Pinard) said that on Thursday we would be discussing the third reading stage of the legislation now before us. Is he saying that he will be giving notice to concur in the Striking Committee report, to take effect some time next week?

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: No, Madam Speaker. What I have said is that on Wednesday, that is tomorrow, we shall move for concurrence in the report after the oral question period. The report was tabled yesterday and notice was given yesterday as well. This requires a notice of 48 hours and we shall therefore be able to move for concurrence on Wednesday, which is tomorrow. Since this concerns the striking of the Committees, I do not believe that any other subject can be more important for Hon. Members on both sides of the House. I also believe that it is urgent that this report be debated. We want it to receive concurrence as soon as possible and we believe that this can be done tomorrow by allowing Members on both sides of the House to speak on a day normally set aside for private members' business.

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Naturally, when notice is given it will become a Government Order. I am just trying to ascertain with some degree of certainty whether it is correct that Thursday will be set aside for debate on the third reading stage of the legislation now before us, the Old Age Security legislation, that Wednesday will be a normal Private Members' day, and that Friday of this week will be an allotted day. Am I correct in those assumptions?

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, as I have just stated, tomorrow, we shall debate, if necessary and if the Opposition so wishes, the report of the Striking Committee which was tabled yesterday by the Hon. Member for London-East (Mr. Turner). We gave notice of our intention yesterday and we plan to move for concurrence in this report tomorrow. Of course, if the report is approved without debate, we shall proceed to private members' business. However, if the report is debated for an hour, there will be one hour less for private members' business.

I would also like to confirm that, on Thursday, we shall proceed with third reading of Bill C-131 and that, as I have already indicated, Friday will be an allotted day.

I hope this time everything is clear.

Business of the House

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Unfortunately, it is abundantly clear. What the Government House Leader is saying, knowing full well that we intend to debate that report, is that we either shut up or we do not get our Private Members' day.

Some Hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Nielsen: The whole day is taken up with Private Members' Business. I can give him notice now, as I have done before, that we will be debating that report. He knows that fact, yet he comes in here and steals the Private Members' day under the new rules. He pleaded for some acts of good faith on the part of Hon. Members throughout the House. I do not consider his action in trying to pre-empt Private Members' day in this underhanded fashion to be any display of good faith on his part or on the Government's part.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Pinard: I am very much surprised by the reaction of the Hon. Member for Yukon. The reason the report of the Striking Committee in relation to the Standing Committees was tabled only yesterday was because of the very request of the Hon. Member for Yukon in the Striking Committee. That report could have been tabled earlier because the Committee was ready to table that report any time last week. It was at his request that we waited until the last ten sitting days, in conformity with the new Standing Orders, to table that report.

On the very same Striking Committee, the Hon. Member for Yukon was the one asking that, as early as possible after the tabling on that report, we move concurrence in that report so that we—

Mr. Nielsen: That is not true.

Mr. Pinard: —could allow the committees to work. That was your own request.

Mr. Nielsen: That is not true.

Mr. Pinard: There is nothing else than the functioning of committees that interests more Private Members. That is why we are calling the motion tomorrow for debate. Therefore, I am surprised by that reaction. We want the committees to work as early as possible.

Mr. Wilson: Twisting the truth.

Mr. Pinard: I have been very courteous today in rising 24 hours in advance and letting my colleague know that we intended to do that. Theoretically, we could have waited until the last minute. However, I wanted to give him fair notice. That is an additional reason I am surprised by his negative reaction.

I am telling him now that we want to allow the committee system to work as early as possible. That is in line with and consequential to the request made by the Hon. Member himself. He is free to allow this report to go without further debate because, after all, it is the first time since I have been a