

Business of the House

will hit other parts of Canada. Because of this negative impact, even the Conservative Hon. Member for Victoria is trying to dissociate himself from the Conservative Budget of May 23.

In the interest of fairness, both to senior citizens and to depressed areas of Canada, will the Minister now urge his cabinet colleagues, particularly the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance, to reconsider this very unfair policy, and reinstate full indexing of the Old Age Security for senior citizens?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is correct when he identifies the unemployment factor, not only on Vancouver Island but in other areas of Canada. This is why the Government and, I think, Canadians generally, were pleased with the trend which is beginning, that more jobs are being created, that more people are going back to work, and that there is more confidence, both in the investment community and in the Canadian public generally, in the manner in which the economy is starting to perform. We have a long way to go yet, but at least we can take some benefit out of the trend lines.

On the second part of his question, which was similar to other questions asked of the Prime Minister yesterday and of me today, the assurances of the Prime Minister as he gave them yesterday are the assurances of the Government of Canada. The Hon. Member should re-examine those assurances in light of today as well, because they stand.

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[Translation]

CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Wednesday, June 12, 1985, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I would be delighted to respond to your invitation to ask the Government House Leader what business he proposes for tomorrow and subsequent days of next week.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, we have not quite concluded our discussions with respect to the business for tomorrow and indeed carrying on into the next two weeks. I have presented a proposal to the Hon. Member on which we certainly have the agreement of the New Democratic Party. If the Hon. House Leader of the Official Opposition is in agreement, I could bring forward the order which was the subject of discussion. If not, perhaps we could continue with our discussions, as it impacts upon the order of business for tomorrow. As the Hon. Member knows, we talked about bringing on some Bills tomor-

row. I just want to ensure that we are on the same wavelength in respect of the sequence of business for tomorrow, which impacts on the business for the next two weeks.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the spirit in which the Hon. Member has made his remarks. I have to complete certain consultations. Hopefully, with Your Honour's indulgence and if it is necessary, later in the afternoon we could revert to this question so that the information will be placed on the record of the House.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

TRANSPORT**ORDER OF REFERENCE OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I have one item which is now agreed upon. It is an order of reference to the Standing Committee on Transport with respect to northern transportation issues, which I withheld because of the request of the transportation critic of the New Democratic Party. Since the assurances he sought have now been obtained, I am in a position, with the consent of the House, to put forward the following order of reference:

That the Standing Committee on Transport be empowered to study and report on federal transportation policies and programs affecting northern, remote and isolated areas, and in particular,

(1) the criteria which should be used to define the adequacy of transportation services to a community;

(2) the manner in which the cost of services should be assessed in terms of costs to the Government versus the need to provide a necessary transportation infrastructure; and

(3) the degree to which the Government should participate in the provision of a transportation infrastructure in the North as opposed to the Government revising its role in the ownership or regulation of transportation services themselves;

That the Committee be empowered to adjourn from place to place within Canada;

And that the Committee have the power to retain expert, professional, technical and clerical staff.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, all I would like to say on behalf of the Official Opposition is that we agree to the proposal put forward by the Hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the Hon. President of the Privy Council (Mr. Hnatyshyn) have unanimous consent of the House to move this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.