

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, it being Thursday I would like to ask the House business question to the hon. government House leader. Could he tell us what will be the business for the rest of this week and for next week?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, this afternoon we will do second reading of Bill C-103, the Land Titles Repeal Act, after which we hope to complete second reading of Bill C-72, an act to establish a national round table on the environment. Tomorrow we hope to complete second reading of Bill C-112, the Excise Tax Act as well as second reading of Bill C-102, the Customs Tariff Act.

Monday will likely be an opposition day. On Tuesday we hope to complete report stage and third reading of Bill C-95, the Farm Credit Corporation Act as well as second reading of Bill S-17, the intellectual property act.

I will of course carry on discussions with House leaders of the opposition parties in terms of business for the remainder of next week.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, we had some understanding and were expecting a budget to be introduced perhaps later this month or early in April or perhaps an economic statement.

Can the government House leader give some clarification? Are we still anticipating that there will be at least an economic statement made either at the end of this month or sometime in mid-April?

• (1525)

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, my recollection is most of Question Period was spent answering that question and I think the answers are on the record.

Government Orders

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

LAND TITLES REPEAL ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. Harvie Andre (for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development) moved that Bill C-103, an act to provide for the repeal of the Land Titles Act and to amend other acts in relation thereto, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee in the Departmental envelope.

Mr. Ross Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to speak on behalf of the government to Bill C-103, the repeal of the Land Titles Act.

This morning I was very pleased to see Bill C-104 which deals with the situation in Saskatchewan move ahead after some very good consideration and certainly agreement among members of this House.

I will speak briefly as I expect other members will. I want merely to explain what Bill C-103, the repeal of the Land Titles Act in fact does.

First it should be recognized that the whole question of land titles and registration is a provincial responsibility. This legislation transfers to the territorial governments that same responsibility in accordance with the government's policies of devolution. I do not think there would be anybody in this House who would disagree with the principles of devolution. I am sure the territorial governments and legislatures have the responsibility comparable to the provinces in a number of these areas.

This transfer will have no effect on land claims. What we are merely doing is ensuring there is a system in place for the registering of title and other interests, such as easements.

There is however some minor effect on other pieces of legislation, for instance the Navigable Waters Protection Act and certainly the Northwest Territories Act, the Yukon Act and the Territorial Lands Act. Both cases are