

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have received notice of three questions of privilege, one to be raised by the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski), another by the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta (Mr. Reynolds) and the third by the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert).

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Baldwin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, before Your Honour hears the interesting questions of privilege may I ask the government House leader what the business of the House will be for the rest of this week and for next week, if he is able to give it to us?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, as the House will have noticed, I have put down a notice of motion regarding hours of sitting, in which I have suggested, in response to suggestions made by members on all sides of the House, that we not sit on June 30 or on July 7. I hope that these suggestions will be accepted. I also put down, in order to compensate for that lost time, extra hours of sitting for the subsequent days of the same week.

● (1500)

I do not want there to be any misunderstanding that we are asking the House to sit extra hours. We are simply making up the time that I believe it is desirable we should make up for the days on which there seems to be a general disposition we should not sit. As for the business for those particular hours, they would be like the days we have given up which were available for government bills. I am not quite certain how we will use that time.

It might help the House in connection with the general plans for a recess, which I think is desirable at some point, to say that we have a limited number of bills that are now passing through the House at various stages which we want to complete before recessing. I will have an opportunity to talk about them in greater detail with the House leaders. There will also be five bills arising out of the budget: three tax bills, one to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act and one to amend the medicare act. Our general intentions in this regard are as follows, and this may help in trying to reach a judgment as to how long we should sit. We intend to proceed with the bill to amend the Excise Tax Act through to royal assent because that bill will provide for the refunds as well as the imposition of the tax on gasoline. It is intended to proceed on the amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act to the completion of second reading. Those are the main priorities we have with respect to the bills which will emerge from the budget. It may be possible to make progress on the other budget bills, but they are not quite as urgent.

Business of the House

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, so that the hon. gentleman may be aware of our views, as far as the two Mondays are concerned, June 30 and July 7, we have no objection to giving consent to the additional hours to compensate for the time lost being used in the way mentioned by the hon. member. With regard to the business announced by the government House leader, is he now talking in terms of one bill going through all stages of the House, one bill going through to second reading, and there is still no positive attitude on the part of the government with regard to the other legislation, that it is a matter for discussion between House leaders?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, there are more than one or two bills to which we attach equal priority. For example, we intend to complete the Petro-Canada bill since there is an order of the House which binds all parties to a couple of days' debate. There are some other bills that it is very urgent to dispose of and on which I do not think there is very much controversy. We have one other bill which will be introduced in the next few days which has been recommended to us by the joint committee on the Finkelman report, dealing with the revision and the composition of the Public Service Staff Relations Board. I believe that should be completed.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise simply to say that we have been a party to the discussions regarding the next two Mondays and the extra hours in the next two weeks to make up for them. We are prepared to agree to the proposal that the minister has made. I understand that some further negotiations may be necessary. We shall, of course, take part in those negotiations. As for the menu for the next two or three weeks, perhaps we can have more discussions among House leaders about that.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order referring back to an earlier stage in the question period. I asked the Prime Minister about the possibility of a transfer of tax points from the federal government to the provinces to compensate for the freeze put on sharing the cost of medical services. I thought I was addressing the question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. He in fact answered another question. The Prime Minister was about to answer when Your Honour went on to another questioner. The question was very straightforward. It is of serious concern to the provinces. I wonder if the Prime Minister would take the opportunity at this time to answer the question.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby raises, as he knows, essentially a non-point of order. I felt, in fairness, I gave him the time that should be allotted to him during the day. There is a great deal of pressure regarding questions on the budget. It was the hon. member's second or third supplementary when we arrived at that point. His question was put to the Prime Minister and he received a combined answer from the Minister of National Health and Welfare and the Prime Minister. At that point it was necessary to go on to another member.

The hon. member now raises the same question by way of a point of order. If I were to permit him to proceed now