

WAYS AND MEANS

NOTICE OF MOTION

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Correct me if I am wrong at this point in the proceedings but pursuant to Standing Order 84(1) I wish to lay upon the Table in both official languages copies of a notice of Ways and Means motion to amend the Income Tax Act.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I know Hon. Members will realize that the intervention of the Minister is completely in order.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, this being Thursday, I want to ask the customary question of the Government House Leader as to what business he proposes to place before the House for the coming week.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to respond to the Hon. Member. Today we will continue with the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. On Friday, we will continue with the Throne Speech debate, which will be the sixth appointed day. Monday, as you are aware, Mr. Speaker, and as other Hon. Members are aware, is Thanksgiving Day. Therefore, the House will not sit.

Inasmuch as an amendment was moved today, that will necessitate a change in the order of business for Tuesday. I regret to advise my hon. friend that I am not in a position at this time to indicate precisely what orders I may be bringing forth on Tuesday. I will, however, give him some ideas. It could be Bill C-5, Bill C-8, and Bill C-9, but I will confirm that tomorrow morning. It will be my intention on Wednesday to continue with the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mrs. Collins for an Address to Her Excellency the Governor General in reply to her Speech at the opening of the Session; and amendment of Mr. Cassidy (p. 227.)

The Address—Mr. Côté

Mr. Speaker: When the House rose at one o'clock p.m., there were eight minutes remaining in the question and comment period following the speech of the Hon. Minister for Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Côté).

[Translation]

I am now going to recognize those who wish to continue the period for questions and comments.

[English]

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Côté). I will not prolong the question and answer period because I am anxiously awaiting the comment of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet) in response to the Throne Speech. Perhaps the Minister for Regional Industrial Expansion will permit one quick question. In the press today there were reports that the provincial Government of New Brunswick was using the federal Government business assistance programs in a sense to make decisions on support for business based on political criteria as opposed to economic, business or industrial criteria. These allegations are very serious, particularly because it was in a sense confirmed in the same press releases that that had been taking place in that province. It is very serious because we are anxious that the federal programs in place to support business receive the maximum impact in job creation and economic development. I would appreciate it if the Minister would reply to a serious question in what appears to be some political manoeuvring in the placement of federal Government and provincial Government support for business.

[Translation]

Mr. Côté (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I did look into this matter, or at least part of it, this morning, and I mentioned the intention of the Government to do everything in its power to eliminate regional disparities. In this context, we have taken special initiatives to try to promote more intense and more serious consultations with the regions and to express the essence of our concerns even though the role of the regions themselves must be intensified.

The Hon. Member made particular reference to a program which comes under the jurisdiction of the province of New Brunswick. I can assure him that I share fully his concerns in this regard. I shall have an opportunity however to examine the situation much more closely in coming days.

Mr. Ouellet: Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to rise and put a question to the Minister, but twice my colleague has raised a question that has remained unanswered by the Minister.

My question will be very brief. He said he intended to look into the matter and consider it in the light of the new situation. Does that mean he admits the New Brunswick Government is taking advantage of the program to exert undue influence and make improper use of public funds? Will the Minister recognize in this House that the New Brunswick Government is in fact mismanaging the funds made available to it?