

*Business of the House*

remainder of the day. In the unlikely event that the House will be sitting tomorrow, would he consider the appropriateness of continuing with the budget debate until all outstanding motions or amendments are disposed of?

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I do not share the same pessimism as my hon. friend about our being here tomorrow. As a matter of fact I was going to inquire, if the light is so nice on that side, if we might experiment with the light on this side—

**An hon. Member:** Come over here.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):**—so that we would have the advantage of lights on both sides of the House as we proceed toward Christmas next week.

I should like to indicate our intentions with respect to the legislative program into the balance of this week and next week. Tomorrow—

**Some hon. Members:** What about today?

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Tomorrow it is our intention to call Bill C-20 for the one sitting day allotted under Standing Order 75C for Committee of the Whole stage. Beginning next week we will commence third reading of Bill C-20 and passage at all stages of the main estimates.

**An hon. Member:** What about today?

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Speaker, with respect to House business, I wonder if I may ask the President of the Privy Council if he plans to make any further statement to the House, either on statements by ministers or at some point, concerning the status of those income tax forms which we were told have been put in the mail. In view of the fact that I know of no one having received his income tax form, can the minister say whether there is any plan about that? Will he be making any statement to the House on that matter?

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, certainly I will make some inquiries with respect to the position. If I had had some notice of the hon. member's intention to ask me that, I could have given the information. I will make some inquiries with respect to that matter and I will report back to him. Perhaps we can talk about that later.

● (1510)

**Mr. Rose:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might ask a question of the President of the Privy Council in his capacity as government House leader. For some months now we have had a motion on the order paper for the creation of a Senate-Commons committee to inquire into nuclear energy. I wonder whether the House leader would be kind enough to give the House some indication as to when he might be calling that?

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, there have been some discussions among the parties in respect of the

[Mr. MacEachen.]

appropriateness of the terms of reference. I know the hon. member for Mission-Port Moody has taken part in that discussion and has indeed written to me. We are taking this up and, as a matter of fact, a ministerial meeting is being scheduled for tomorrow to review the representations of the hon. gentleman. It is my intention, if we can settle the terms among us all so that they would be acceptable, to take that matter up as soon as the House returns in January.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Guay:** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the House leader. In view of the fact that we are going on with the regular business of the House, I would like to point out that motion No. 9 under my name and dealing with the re-establishment of Canadian merchant marine should normally be debated next Monday at five o'clock. I would like to know if the right honourable Prime Minister or the minister responsible will be present in the House to state his position in clear, unequivocal and specific terms, with respect to a Canadian merchant marine?

[*English*]

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I know how important the hon. gentleman's question is to him and, indeed, to members on this side of the House. I want to assure him that there will be a person here to indicate clearly the government's position, which I think is already known to the hon. gentleman.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Nystrom:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to stand the question of privilege until tomorrow, if I may, please.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There seems to be some particular subject which hon. members have a great desire to discuss today. I wonder if I might invite them to do so behind the curtains or in the corridor so we can hear the business that is on the floor of the House.

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#### PRIVILEGE

MR. BUJOLD—PROGRAM HOSPITALITY CANADA—ALLEGED LACK OF INFORMATION ON GRANTING OF CONTRACT TO CP AIR

**Hon. David MacDonald (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, it was drawn to my attention a few moments ago that on Tuesday the hon. member for Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (Mr. Bujold) raised a question in respect of the operation of Open House Canada and its unfair utilization of Canadian Pacific Airlines as opposed to Air Canada.

This matter is somewhat complicated, Mr. Speaker, and I do not want to get into detail here on the floor of the House. I think it is perhaps fair to point out, however, that there is no positive pursuit of any policy in respect of Open House