

tion would the government like to see cleared from the House by June 30 which was the Prime Minister's expected date?

While he is on his feet and answering the question, could he deal with the veterans legislation promised in the speech of the hon. Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. MacDonald) which we have undertaken to deal with expeditiously, and would it be possible for him to designate next Tuesday as an allotted day in accordance with our understanding?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, yes, I will designate Tuesday next as an opposition day.

In reply to the questions raised by the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker), I would say it is certainly my objective to have this session adjourned or prorogued by the end of June, not later than that. As the hon. member knows, there are a great number of bills on the order paper. Even an optimist like myself would hardly hope that the House would deal with them all before the end of June. Certainly I would want to deal with the income tax bill and the customs tariff bill, both emanating from the budget. There are some bills in committee to which I attach priority; the bill to provide additional funds for the Export Development Corporation is important. The bill relating to language of trial is important. Of course I have my eye on Bill C-28, relating to the Public Service Staff Relations Act. Whether it is realistic to suggest it could be completed in all its stages before the end of June is a matter of question. That is another bill to which I attach considerable priority.

I can add other bills. But these are among the bills with which I would like to have dealt. However, it would all depend on how long the House will take dealing with the income tax bill and the customs tariff bill, and as well there is the considerable number of allotted days which have to be dealt with before the end of June.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, the minister knows that there are a certain number of opposition or allotted days which are provided by standing order. There is nothing very much we can do with that. If we subtract them from the total number of parliamentary days available up to the end of June, it leaves less than 20 government days. It is useless for us to talk about a long list of legislation on the order paper.

Maybe the government House leader would like to approach it from the point of view of the bills that are not essential. I do not know. But given that expectation by the Prime Minister,—and he may not be able to do it today,—of June 30, I think the government House leader owes the House a definite statement on what legislation is considered essential by June 30 if the House is to meet the Prime Minister's date of expectation.

If there is any new legislation to go on the order paper, aside from the Bank Act which appears there today and which is an extensive piece of legislation which I do not think could be dealt with reasonably by that time, I think we should know that. If there is none, what legislation precisely does the government have to have? It would be nice to have a definite answer to that question at this time since the Prime Minister

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has expressed a definite desire on behalf of the government, I presume, to be out by June 30.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I believe the request made by the hon. member is an understandable and justified one. I have attempted to provide my list at this stage which contains the budget bills, the language of trial and the Export Development Corporation bills. I have mentioned the difficulties we would experience in trying to get Bill C-28 before the House, to which I attach considerable priority. There is a measure relating to the veterans pension which has to be brought in and which, I understand, would be passed quickly. I may have another measure relating to social welfare that might be passed quickly, also in conjunction with the disability pension. That would be a matter for consultation with party representatives. That is my list.

There may be other measures that will come in. When they do, I will have to come to the House and say, "This is an item I would like to get through before the end of June." Certainly the objective is to terminate the session by the end of June. I understand the difficulties, but I cannot go beyond what I have said today, which is a reasonably candid explanation of where I think I am going.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I confirm what is already realized, that any attempt to proceed with Bill C-28 would play havoc with any adjournment by the end of June. May I thank the minister for his assurance that the bill regarding the basic rate of the war disability pension will be introduced. So far as we are concerned we stand by our earlier commitment to deal with that bill very quickly.

I have one other question which is a repetition of a question asked a week or so ago: will there be a bill to establish the department of fisheries and oceans separate from the Department of the Environment before the end of June?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, there very well may be, but I cannot be absolutely certain today. I believe that if we get an understanding to do it quickly it may be possible for me to bring in that bill. There has been a severance within the department and a general agreement on the creation of a single department of fisheries which has been partially achieved by order in council. I believe the final touch has to be provided through legislation. I will try to get a definite answer for the hon. member, and tell him as soon as possible.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, perhaps we could have consultation on these matters very soon.

● (1512)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, I should like to say that as far as our party is concerned, we have always felt that we should co-operate as much as possible with the government in the introduction and adoption of priority bills.