

Business of the House

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSEITEMS FOR BALANCE OF SECOND SESSION
AND BEGINNING OF THIRD

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, in view of the relatively recent shift in responsibilities it has been agreed between my colleague, the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) and myself that for the balance of the current session and for the opening proceedings of the next session I will continue to act as House Leader in order to wind up this session and start the next.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I thank hon. members for their expressions of concurrence in this arrangement. In view of the fact that I will be moving to defence shortly I will try not to be too offensive in this role at the present time.

First I would like to confirm the timetable for the balance of this session, something which has been discussed with the representatives of the various parties. It would be the government's intention to seek prorogation of the present session on Wednesday afternoon toward the close of that day's sitting.

The Speech from the Throne commencing the third session would be on Thursday morning, and the motion to move and second the Address in Reply would be put on Thursday afternoon. Discussions along these lines have been held with representatives of the various parties. I believe it has been generally agreed that leaders' day would take place on Friday next, and if it were found necessary the House would concur in a motion to extend the time of the sitting on Friday so that the leaders of all parties would not be cramped for time. As Monday next is the Thanksgiving holiday, the general debate on the Speech from the Throne would begin on Tuesday of next week.

With respect to this week's business, for today the first item to be called under government orders would be government order No. 68, the report stage of the shipping conference exemptions bill, to be followed by the bill from the Senate with regard to the incorporation of the Hudson's Bay Company. When we reach that stage of our proceedings I would suggest and make a motion to the House that the bill be considered in committee of the whole rather than be referred to an appropriate standing committee. That is government order No. 108.

[Mr. Caouette.]

The third item today would be government order No. 82, the Canada Grains Act. I might say, Mr. Speaker, that there has been some doubt expressed in some quarters as to the propriety of hon. members placing amendments at this time, particularly in view of the fact that this bill was reported just on the last day before the House adjourned for the summer recess. On behalf of the government I would be prepared to put forward a motion of a procedural nature so that it would be possible for amendments to be moved today, in order that they could be considered today, if the House is prepared to agree to that.

Tomorrow we would propose to call the motion to concur in the Senate amendments to Bill C-4, the Canada Corporations Act, and as the second item of business the Canada Grains Act. On Wednesday we would again call the Canada Grains Act if it were still under debate and, as I indicated, later in the afternoon we would seek prorogation of the session, bringing the second session of this Parliament to an end.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I would be graciously pleased to endure the continued existence of the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Macdonald) as Government House Leader until the end of this session, and would even be happy to accept his suggestion that Bill S-25 be dealt with in all stages in the House. This is an admirable suggestion, and we would be glad to co-operate.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): We agree, Mr. Speaker. We even agree to suffer the minister for two more days.

[Translation]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, the Ralliement créditiste agrees with the proposals of the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Macdonald) inasmuch as they apply to the current session and to the beginning of the next one. We regret one thing. Parliament will be prorogued after over three months of holidays for hon. members who could easily have done a lot of work during summer and properly prepared themselves for resuming their business in the House.

[English]

Mr. Horner: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, it has been my understanding that before debate commences on a given government item it must be on the Order Paper for 48 hours. To my knowledge it was impossible