

I wonder, at the same time, if he could tell the House the intentions of the government with respect to the notice of motion appearing in the name of the President of the Privy Council respecting the question of northern gas pipelines. It appears on page VIII of today's order paper. I am really interested in knowing the purpose of the motion. Is it merely as window-dressing, or is it the intention of the government to bring in that motion for debate quickly and, if so, is it the intention of the government to bring the motion on in such a way that the matter may come to a vote? I really want to know why it is there.

**Mr. Blais:** I had hoped the hon. gentleman, in raising his point of order, would seek information and would refrain from editorializing or engaging in debate.

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

**Mr. Blais:** If the hon. member is interested in knowing the business of the House, I would be pleased to inform him. If he wants to engage in debate on various items on the order paper, we can oblige him as well. I am pleased to advise him that we will be continuing today with Bill C-51. Tomorrow is an opposition day, as the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton knows. On Monday we will resume debate on Bill C-51 and, I hope, dispose of it—if we do not do so today. I hope we might refer it to the committee this afternoon.

**An hon. Member:** Don't editorialize.

**Mr. Blais:** Then we will proceed with Bill C-38, the fisheries and environment bill. Subsequently, we will deal with the customs tariff, the excise tax legislation, followed by the Bretton Woods Agreements Act. As well, we will be dealing with allotted days on Wednesday and Thursday of next week, as the hon. gentleman has indicated. We hope that the items I have enumerated will take us through next Friday. With reference to the item on the order paper mentioned by the hon. member, I have a great deal of respect for the President of the Privy Council and I believe that when he puts an item on the order paper it is there, not as window-dressing but as a substantive item to be dealt with by the House.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** I am surprised that the deputy House leader should think I am editorializing, when I speak so gently to him.

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

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** I asked him two questions which may have escaped him. He has indicated that the President of the Privy Council seriously put the motion on the order paper. I asked him two questions arising out of it. He can tell me if he has no instructions, and if he has instructions I would appreciate an answer. Is it the intention of the government to arrange to bring that matter to a vote? If that is the case, would he be prepared to discuss that motion? Also, can he tell the House when the motion will be brought forward? It deals with an important matter. If he does not have instructions on this, let him say so today and I can put

*Privilege—Mr. Fortin*

my question to the government House leader. If he does, can he answer the questions?

**Mr. Blais:** First of all, Mr. Speaker, I have announced the business for next week. It is not the habit of the House leader or the deputy House leader to deal with a matter of that importance without due consultation with all the representatives of the other parties. Today we have not discussed that; we have not entered into any discussions relating to that item. When it is time to discuss that item and negotiate the time the House is ready to allow, the hon. gentleman from Grenville-Carleton will be advised.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** In other words, you don't know.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Postmaster General has indicated why there is some concern about this motion. It was understood there would be a discussion among the House leaders about a possible debate on the northern pipeline situation, so it comes as a surprise to us that a motion is on the order paper without that discussion having taken place. But in view of the question asked by the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton about the motion coming to a vote, may I ask what is the point of having a vote on a motion which simply says we will not take any decision?

**Mr. Woolliams:** It has been done before.

\* \* \*

● (1510)

[Translation]

**PRIVILEGE**

MR. FORTIN—ALLEGATION OF BIAS IN RADIO-CANADA

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise a question of privilege. I could not do so before since I just received this answer to a question I had asked the Secretary of State (Mr. Roberts) through the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) about the by-election coverage by Radio-Canada of the Social Credit Party of Canada. Here is the answer, and I submit that our privileges are actually affected. This answer comes from the Secretary of State himself.

Dear Sir:

As I had promised in my answer to your oral question on May 3, 1977, I am happy to inform you that I have received from Radio-Canada a report about the news coverage made last weekend on the by-elections.

Radio-Canada has given me the following information:

The French TV network initiated in the middle of April a first series of programs regarding the by-elections to be held at the end of May.

One must then not assess the value of the coverage on the first part alone.

The objective of those programs was not to take stock of all nominations in each riding, partly because all parties do not yet have candidates in all ridings, and the nominations are not all made.

The objective was to give a preliminary picture of the ridings with the main forces already in place and committed for sure in the election campaign.