

Adjournment Motion

When you consider that the first question I asked was about the government's total advertising budget for the fiscal year 1979-80 and the proposed budget for the fiscal year 1980-81 and that the estimates have already been tabled for fiscal year 1981-82, it raises questions about the government's seriousness in dealing with these issues. We will be into a new fiscal year before I learn about the advertising budget of two years ago.

The first part of question No. 1,450 asks the government to go back in time and give information about its advertising budget, and it may be the case that the government feels it is not possible to give that information or that it would be too costly to do so. What the government should be doing is simply to say so in a direct way as part of an order for return or as part of a response to this question.

● (1640)

I think the other elements of the two questions asked are fairly easily answerable and that the House is entitled to an answer to them. I would appreciate the parliamentary secretary giving some priority to answering these questions, which have stood on the Order Paper for more than half a year.

Mr. Collenette: Madam Speaker, I take note of the suggestion made by my colleague opposite. I want to assure him sincerely that the government is not dragging its feet in answering these questions. I have been pursuing the matter quite diligently. We have a number of the answers, but there are five or six pieces of information required to complete the picture, so to speak. As soon as we have the whole picture, we will table the answers in the House.

I should inform the hon. member that we did answer a series of questions asked by his colleague, the hon. member for York-Peel (Mr. Stevens). I believe No. 1,740 was answered and a few more after that in that series. That was a few weeks ago. The answers dealt with this question but on singular issues involving singular departments.

We have also answered questions about the media-buying contract, as it is known. This clearly illustrates that we are not trying to hide anything. We are certainly committed to getting these answers before the House. I realize there has been some press speculation about delay in answering these two questions, but I can assure you, Madam Speaker, and all other members that we shall be answering these questions soon.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Madam Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for

Victoria (Mr. McKinnon)—Royal Canadian Mounted Police—Reported removal of "E" Division from Victoria, B.C.; the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Howie)—Energy—New Brunswick oil shales development; the hon. member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie)—Health care—Request for legislation to ban extra billing by doctors.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MOTION TO EXTEND SITTINGS DURING DEBATE ON CONSTITUTION

On the order: Government Notices of Motions:

March 19, 1981—The President of the Privy Council:

THAT WHEREAS the Prime Minister tabled in the House of Commons on October 6, 1980 a document entitled "Proposed Resolution for a Joint Address to Her Majesty the Queen Respecting the Constitution of Canada";

AND WHEREAS the motion to refer the said document to a Special Joint Committee of the House and Senate was debated in the House on 11 days between October 6 and October 23, 1980, allowing some 78 members to speak;

AND WHEREAS the Joint Committee, on which some 132 members of this House served, held 106 meetings, sat for 267 hours, received over 1,000 written submissions and heard testimony from 95 groups and 5 individuals;

AND WHEREAS the Joint Committee, having had its reporting date extended twice, reported on February 13, 1981 with the recommendation that the government introduce a motion for the presentation of the Address as modified by the committee;

AND WHEREAS the motion of the Minister of Justice implementing the Joint Committee's recommendation was moved on February 17, 1981;

AND WHEREAS the honourable member for Provencher moved an amendment to that motion on February 17, 1981;

AND WHEREAS the said amendment has been debated by this House for some five weeks, with the result that as of March 18, 1981 there have been 52 speakers on behalf of the official opposition, 15 speakers on behalf of the New Democratic Party, and 31 speakers on behalf of the government;

THEREFORE until the motion of the Minister of Justice for an Address to Her Majesty the Queen respecting the Constitution of Canada and any amendments thereto have been finally disposed of, Standing Order 6(1) and Standing Order 40 shall be suspended and, notwithstanding any other Standing Order, Private Members' Business shall be suspended, and the House shall sit from 10.00 o'clock a.m. to 1.00 o'clock p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays for the consideration of government business; and Standing Order 6(3) shall be read as if it said "At 11.59 o'clock p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 10.00 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday and at 7.00 o'clock p.m. on Fridays, Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the House until the next sitting day."

AND during debate on the said motion of the Minister of Justice and any amendments and sub-amendments proposed thereto,

(a) notwithstanding Standing Order 31(1) no member shall speak for more than 20 minutes;

(b) when no member rises in his place to participate in the debate, or at 15 minutes before the time of adjournment provided for by this order on the second day during which the motion of the Minister of Justice or any amendments and subamendments proposed thereto have been under consideration following the adoption of this motion—whichever occurs first—the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of any amendments and subamendments then under consideration;

(c) if, at the time provided for in paragraph (b) there is no amendment or subamendment under consideration, the Speaker shall put every question