

Business of the House

would be cut in Manitoba in terms of rail relocation. The editorial was headed simply "Shut Up".

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, it being Thursday, I wonder if I could ask my friend the President of the Privy Council and government House leader about his plans for tomorrow and into next week, bearing in mind that today is an allotted day for Her Majesty's loyal opposition.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, tomorrow we shall try to get second reading of the small businesses loans legislation and if, as we hope, the bill passes that stage, we shall pursue on Friday consideration of the Employment Tax Credit Act. On Monday, the debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne will resume; it will be the seventh day. The eighth day will come later in the session at a date not yet determined. But Monday for sure will be the seventh day of the throne speech debate. On Tuesday, we would like to complete second reading of the Bank Act and if we succeed before the end of the day, we could proceed with second reading of the Bretton Woods Agreements bill. Wednesday and Thursday, as my colleagues know, will be business supply days; the House will be in Committee of the Whole, and I expect that my hon. colleagues will let me know in due course the estimates of which departments they would like to examine.

[English]

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, it is our intention to give that advice to the minister. I thank him for the invitation.

I had raised a question with the minister with respect to the matter of parliamentary groups like the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Canadian branch, and others having the opportunity to report to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence. I wonder if he would be prepared to consider that reference—or maybe he has had time to do so—so that the work of those committees could be reported to Parliament appropriately. I undertake with the minister that there would be no debate on a reference of that nature.

Mr. Knowles: Madam Speaker, as the minister knows, there are times—for example, yesterday—when we interrupt whatever business we are doing because something comes along which is regarded as urgent. May I ask the government House leader to have discussions with his colleague, the Minister of Veterans Affairs, on the urgency of the promised legislation to do something about the widows of disabled veterans. Can he assure us that that legislation will be brought in soon?

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, my hon. colleague can rest assured that I shall bring his concern to the attention of the Minister of Veterans Affairs as soon as he returns from Holland.

[English]

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Privy Council. Has the minister had an opportunity yet to consult with his colleagues on the very worth-while suggestion made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre that the annual report of the Canadian Human Rights Commission be referred to a special committee of this House for very comprehensive consideration?

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, first I would like to advise the House that in a few days we will give notice of a motion to refer to a joint committee the report of the Commissioner of Official Languages. This results from an agreement we reached this morning with the leaders of the opposition parties.

As regards the suggestion repeated today by the hon. member, no decision has been reached yet on this matter; however, my hon. friend should understand that committees of the House are now studying the estimates and that many other matters are likely to be referred to them soon. This does not, by any standard, depreciate the suggestion he is putting forward. It is being seriously considered and I hope to be able to give him an answer within a reasonable delay.

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[English]

PRIVILEGE

MR. NIELSEN—ALLEGED DELETION FROM OFFICIAL REPORT

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Madam Speaker, you will recall that last Friday I raised a question of privilege, but it was deferred because the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was not in his seat. He was in the House today but he has now left, so I ask that that matter stand until tomorrow.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS TO SPEAK

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville): Madam Speaker, I rise just briefly to ask for clarification from the Chair, if possible, and to obtain some idea of the basis on which members of the House who are commonly classified as backbenchers are recognized, particularly during the last part of the question period.

As one who has been fortunate enough to obtain recognition to move three or four motions under Standing Order 43 since the start of the session, but who has been unable to gain the