

*Business of the House***BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. There was a question raised by the opposition House leader just before the Minister of State for International Trade began his speech. I must confess that I inadvertently misunderstood it and that I consequently answered it in a way in which I would not have intended. I want to tell the hon. member and the House generally that I am rather pleased at the progress which has been made in the last few days and I want to express my thanks to the opposition House leader, to the House leader of the New Democratic Party and to the other members of the House. I might have caused the hon. member for Cape Breton Highlands-Canso some embarrassment by the remark I made. I certainly embarrassed myself. I therefore wish to withdraw the remarks unequivocally.

He did ask a question, though. Given the fact that we might very well be able to carry on with the work of this House because the references which are on the order paper might be completed, he invited an indication of what the House might be asked to deal with. Given that situation, I propose to call Bill S-10, if there is time within the time-frame that he and I have discussed, a bill dealing with a land problem, really a bill to acquire the title to some property that was transferred some period of time ago. It is necessary that that legislation be passed. I understand there is a disposition to deal with that bill at all stages rather quickly.

If that was completed in time, given the business before us with respect to the references, then I would propose to begin, at least, the debate on the parliamentary reform package, recognizing that there may be interests which would not allow it to be completed, so that the committee on procedure and organization might embark on the process of looking at the rules of this House, something that I think is important.

If by chance a report is received from the committee on Bill C-4 which deals with the Federal Business Development Bank—the committee has not yet reported formally to this House, I understand, but might yet report formally to this House in time—and if the necessary agreement could be reached, perhaps we might deal with that.

I hope this gives the opposition House leaders some indication of how we can proceed. In closing, I would like to say that I regret very much the imputation which I made, having misunderstood what had been said to me.

Mr. MacEachen: I thank the President of the Privy Council for his comments and particularly for outlining what we may have to deal with. I would just ask him whether, for example, if we begin dealing with the parliamentary reference today, or even if we do not reach it, that will be the order of business for Monday as well as for today. If the minister can indicate that this is so, we in this party, at least, are prepared to consider it on Monday.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): I appreciate that very much. Yes, that would be the indication, given that we complete the matters that we have discussed in that period of time.

[Mr. Wilson.]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. It being one o'clock I do now leave the chair until 2 p.m.

At 1.06 p.m. the House took recess.

● (1400)

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW ACT**APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW OPERATION**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson:

That a special committee of the House of Commons be appointed

(1) to inquire into and report upon the extent to which the *Foreign Investment Review Act* has achieved and is achieving its purpose as described by Parliament in section 2 of the act, taking into account, among other things, significant relevant domestic and international economic developments in the period the act has been in force;

(2) to make recommendations for changes in the act or its implementation with a view;

- (a) to increase the effectiveness of the act in the achievement of its purpose,
- (b) to minimize costs, delays and uncertainties of the process for investors, and costs to governments, and
- (c) to make the review and decision-making processes as open as possible to parliamentary and public scrutiny consistent with the protection of commercial or other information of a private nature;

(3) without limiting the generality of the foregoing, to examine and make recommendations with respect,

- (a) to the appropriateness of the review and decision-making processes having regard to the range of investments reviewable under the act,
- (b) to the assessment criteria specified in subsection 2(2) of the act, with particular reference to the application of Canadian industrial and economic development policies,
- (c) to the role of the provinces in the implementation of the act, and
- (d) to the extent and manner in which the views of interested third parties should be taken into account;

(4) to report in time for the next session of Parliament and, in any event, by not later than September 1980;

That the special committee be composed of seven members of the House of Commons to be designated at a later date;

That the committee have power to appoint from among its members such subcommittees as may be deemed advisable and necessary and to delegate to such subcommittees all or any of their powers except the power to report directly to the House or the power to retain staff or commission studies;

That the committee have power to sit during sittings and adjournments of the House of Commons;

That the committee have power to send for persons, papers and records, and to examine witnesses and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be ordered by the committee;

That the committee have power to adjourn from place to place within Canada; and

That the committee be empowered to retain the services of advisers and to commission studies or research to assist in its work and that it also be empowered to retain the professional, technical, clerical and stenographic help as may be required.