

Inquiries of the Ministry

and they can be analysed and deductions drawn from them, but the hon. member has no right to put such an interpretation on them. The government has consistently made it very clear that it regards these items as of major importance.

Mr. Howard: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam has no right to place a particular interpretation upon what the Prime Minister said, neither has the President of the Privy Council any right to do the same thing.

[Later:]

Mr. Colin Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. In view of his statement a few moments ago that he recognized no necessity for interrupting the flag debate in order to ensure the passage of legislation that many members feel is more important, are we to assume that he has had firm assurances there will not be a prolonged debate on the flag issue when it comes up?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman should not inadvertently misrepresent what I said. I did not say there would be no necessity; I said there should be no necessity to interrupt the flag debate.

[Later:]

Mr. McIlraith: If I may have the indulgence of the house I wish to make a short announcement which I think will be of interest to hon. members. It concerns the business before us.

Following the discussion in the house last night when I announced the business of the house as reported at page 10203 of *Hansard*, and after consultation with the Prime Minister, I called a meeting of the house leaders of the various parties to discuss house business. I am happy to advise hon. members that agreement has now been reached among the parties that there be an order of the house to the effect that starting tomorrow we shall consider estimates, that they shall be considered each sitting day, and that not later than November 27, all estimates, that is the main estimates and supplementary estimates A, B and C, shall be dealt with, as well as the necessary appropriation bill at all stages. It was understood that the Speaker would be able to leave the chair without question put on Monday and Tuesday of next week, and that private members' hours would be waived during this period.

I would ask, Mr. Speaker, whether you would so order.

Mr. Speaker: Is the house in agreement?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered.

The time for the question period has expired, but through a lapse of memory on my part I forgot to call the hon. member for York-Humber, who spoke to me some time ago and who would like to pose a question. So, with the consent of the house, I propose we have one more question.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Howard: I rise on a point of order. When the proposal was made by the President of the Privy Council with respect to the business of the house for the remainder of this week and next week, both the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and I rose to make some comment about it, but you did not offer either of us the opportunity to make that comment indicating whether or not there was agreement with that proposal.

Mr. Mandziuk: But didn't you?

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I might be heard on the point, namely the suggestion that the house agree to the order which has been proposed by the leader of the house.

The statement that there was a meeting of the house leaders of the various parties this morning and that we gave favourable consideration to the program as outlined in the statement just made by the leader of the house is correct. Our party was concerned about one point, and I reported this back to the leader of the house. This one point had to do with the order of priority, after the estimates have been disposed of, as between the flag debate and the Canada labour code. An assurance was given to me that no decision was being taken on that question, that all we were agreeing to was the order of business until a week from Friday. There was no assurance that the Canada labour code would be brought forward, but neither was there any exclusion of the possibility of our still discussing with the government the fact that we might have it ahead of the flag debate. It was on the understanding that this matter was left open that I reported our agreement back to the house leader.

Obviously there is some concern in this party this afternoon because of the exchanges which have taken place. I can only say our agreement was conditional on there not being a decision at this point beyond what is actually set out in the statement made by