

Finally, can the parliamentary secretary tell us when the bill following upon the ways and means motion relating to the small business changes will be introduced?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that with regard to two or three matters raised by the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker), the parliamentary secretary will have to consult his minister. It may be that we should have some joint discussions, particularly with regard to sorting out the holiday week ends.

I rise mainly to say two things. First, I welcome the fact that Monday, June 5, has been or will be designated as an opposition day. I believe it is agreed on this side of the House that that will be our day, and there will be a motion in the name of the leader of this party.

I now come to the question of the bill respecting the basic rate of the War Disability Pension. I may say that in the meetings of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs this week when we were on estimates, we had enough discussion on this bill that I can say we would be very satisfied to put it through the House quickly. Certainly an hour will be sufficient time.

Since the business of the day has already been upset, and there is more to come, I suggest that we deal with that bill tonight. We are not going to have much time today for Bill C-56 anyway. I would suggest we deal with it now, only the Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Buchanan) has a statement to make and we will be tied up with that. Then there will be private members' hour.

The Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. MacDonald) will be here tonight. The hon. member for Norfolk-Haldimand (Mr. Knowles), who speaks for his party on this issue as I do for my party, and I have discussed the matter and we are certainly in agreement on a very short debate. I do not think we need a House order. Surely our word is good on this, that it will not take more than an hour to put that bill through second reading, committee of the whole, and third reading so that it can be passed and sent to the other place where I believe they can deal with it very quickly.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, concerning the Tory House leader's comments about a special debate on external affairs, he was told this afternoon that the question period provided opposition members with sufficient opportunity to ask questions about it. A few moments ago I read the motion moved by the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. MacEachen) to allow certain committees to sit during the month of June. I find that the committee on External Affairs and National Defence is included in the motion and thus will be allowed to sit during June, providing opposition members with another opportunity to ask questions on the subject, and finally there are still many days allocated to the opposition. However, I take notice of the hon. member's suggestion about a two-day debate where the opposition would sacrifice one day and the government would

Point of Order—Mr. Hnatyshyn

give up one day of its business. I will transmit that suggestion to the President of the Privy Council.

As for Bill C-58, we disagree that we should wait as long as the Progressive Conservative House leader suggests. We want to proceed with this bill on the conditions he specified, that is to pass the bill through all stages within an hour. We do not wish to consider the bill on an opposition day next week, or in two or three weeks, as he suggested. We would rather go ahead with this bill today and, if necessary, tonight at eight o'clock when the minister will be here. The Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. MacDonald) is available and as soon as we are finished with another minister's statement on motions, we will proceed with the bill, as long as we have at least an hour, that is as long as there is one working hour left to discuss, for a maximum of one hour, and pass this piece of legislation at all stages.

Finally, as regards the Saint-Jean-Baptiste, we on this side of the House have a deep respect for the French Canadians' feast day and hon. members of the opposition can be assured that we will advise all members of the House at what time exactly the House may adjourn to celebrate with dignity the feast day of our fellow citizens. Finally, concerning bills relating to small businesses, I have been asked when we will proceed to their consideration. I will refer this request to the President of Privy Council, but I want to point out to the hon. member that several of these fiscal measures have already been implemented so that it is far from being as urgent as one might believe at first sight. Mr. Speaker, besides the comments I just made, I will be pleased to convey to the Deputy Prime Minister the suggestions which have been made and I will inform the opposition parties as soon as possible.

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[English]

POINT OF ORDER

MR. HNATYSHYN—ANSWER BY PRIME MINISTER DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It has its basis in the question period today. I intend to be very brief. My point of order relates to an answer given by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) during the course of the question period today in response to a question I put to him. I submit to Your Honour that the Prime Minister misled the House, perhaps inadvertently, by putting words in my mouth with regard to the question I put to him.

● (1642)

During the course of his response the Prime Minister suggested that the position I had put to him was that the actions of Hon. Donald S. Macdonald with regard to his appointment as a director of one or another commercial corporations in Canada did not contravene the guidelines set out by the Prime Minister on two separate occasions. That position is not the position I have submitted to the Prime Minister. I think there