

Business of the House

the adjournment until Bill C-5 has been concluded? I would point out that if these two matters are to be debated on Monday, notice will have to be filed in any case before the House rises tomorrow. I wonder whether he might not let us on the opposition side have copies of the intended motions, so that we can know what to plan in terms of the debate on Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. Cafik: I simply indicated that if there was a disposition agreeable to all members whereby an order of the House, or something to that effect, could be made under which we would dispose of Bill C-5 by a given time between now and Friday, we would be able to table these motions immediately. That might be a convenient way of achieving the objective hon. members are seeking, as well as the objective the government has in mind, namely, to dispose of Bill C-5 prior to Friday evening.

An hon. Member: Keep that up and you will be here until the new year.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I am afraid the minister has missed my point. I am simply suggesting it would be helpful to all members if we could know, before the motions are tabled, particularly with regard to the debate on external affairs, what the terms of the motion are to be. I am simply asking that he supply the representatives of the parties with copies even before that motion is tabled.

Mr. Cafik: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I think that is a very reasonable request. I think the request I have made is very reasonable, too. I will take into account what the hon. member has said, and when the motion is drafted I will try to make copies available to members of the opposition parties.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, this question is very important. Such situations occur each year just before the Christmas holidays. This is nothing new; it happens every year.

Bill C-5 is very important and it interests all members of this House as well as the public because, normally, in a democracy the whole population must know the elections act since it must apply it.

We agree that Bill C-5 must be passed as soon as possible and as intelligently as possible.

However, from what the minister has just said, it appears that there might be—we are not absolutely sure about this—a debate on external affairs. We do not know what the motion will be and whether there will really be a debate. Why not tell us? And if there is a debate, why not tell us exactly what particular subject will be debated? I very much fear, Mr. Speaker, that when the motion on Bill C-5 is passed next week, if we do not know exactly the nature of the debates which will take place in the House, it is possible that a certain number of members will be absent, and we know that the weather can have a very great influence on such matters.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, it would be normal to ask the minister to specify the nature of this debate so that we can

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

prepare ourselves intelligently and have interesting and useful sittings.

● (1522)

[*English*]

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, I think a false impression is being created, and if it has been created on my part, I apologize. If Bill C-5 is not disposed of by Tuesday, I presume there will be no debate at all on external affairs. This is why I have indicated that the motion will be tabled when Bill C-5 is disposed of. Presuming that, in private discussions with hon. members, I am led to believe that Bill C-5 will be disposed of this week, I have also indicated to all hon. members that the external affairs debate, if held—as presumably it will be—will be a broad-ranging debate which will allow hon. members a full opportunity to participate and to speak on all matters relating to external affairs. I have not seen the motion, but I am under the impression that that is its nature. I think all hon. members will be well guided to bear those factors in mind in making preparations to participate in a debate which may be held on Monday and Tuesday, depending on the disposition of Bill C-5.

Mr. Foster: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, would the acting House leader tell us whether the government is going to table the bill on the Alcan pipeline? It seems to me this is a matter of great concern not only for the Yukon but, in economic terms, for the whole country. Can the bill be tabled before the Christmas recess, so that hon. members will have a chance to review it before they recess?

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, it is the intention of the government to table a number of bills for first reading prior to the adjournment. I must admit that I do not have the papers in front of me, so cannot say whether this bill will be one of them; but if it is not, I will take the representation to my colleagues to see what can be done.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURE TO PROHIBIT PORNOGRAPHIC DISPLAYS

Mr. Bob Kaplan (York Centre) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-411, to amend the Criminal Code (pornographic displays).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Kaplan: Mr. Speaker, it is true that this bill deals with the subject of pornography, but I regard it as an environmental pollution control bill. It will not affect the availability of pornography in society; that is not its purpose. Its purpose is to prevent those running establishments which emphasize sex and