

*Privilege*

ability of any member on any committee to attend those funeral arrangements.

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, I too certainly agree with the intent of the motion but I seek clarification on two points.

The government House Leader has indicated that it would be the suggestion of the government. Are we to conclude that it is more than a suggestion and that committees will not be sitting tomorrow afternoon to allow members to attend the funeral? Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, if the debate were to collapse prior to 9.30 p.m. on Thursday the understanding would be that the Prime Minister would have an opportunity to participate in the debate on November 28, and presumably other members as well. The government House Leader is not precluding other members from participating at that point as well?

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, with respect to the second question, yes, that would definitely be the case. With respect to the first question, I am not sure that the government House Leader has the ability to order committees not to sit but I think the committees would understand the spirit with which all members in this House are agreeing to this motion. I would think that that should take care of that particular question.

**Mr. Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, if there is any doubt that the committee chairmen will respect the wishes expressed here, it would be very simple that the House order have words added to it that not only will sittings of this House stand suspended between 11.30 a.m. and 6 p.m., but the same shall apply to all committees. The committees are subsidiary bodies of this House and subject to its direction.

**Mr. Lewis:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** The House has heard the proposal of the Minister of Justice and has heard the comments of the hon. member for Windsor West and the hon. member for Kamloops. The motion is:

That the House sit the following hours, and conduct the following business, on Tuesday, November 21, Wednesday, November 22 and Thursday, November 23, 1989:

On Tuesday, November 21, meeting at 10 o'clock a.m. for Statements by Members, Oral Questions at 10.15 o'clock a.m., and Routine Proceedings at 11.00 o'clock a.m.; following which (but, in any case, no later than 11.30 o'clock a.m.), the sitting shall be

suspended until 6.00 o'clock p.m., when Government Orders will be called for resumed debate on Bill C-43, an Act respecting abortion, with adjournment of the debate and of the House to be at 10.00 o'clock p.m.; and no committees shall sit between 11.30 o'clock a.m. and 6.00 o'clock p.m.; and

On Wednesday, November 22 and Thursday, November 23, in addition to its normal sitting hours, the House shall sit until 9.30 o'clock p.m., on resumed debate on Bill C-43 and the adjournment debate shall be held at 9.30 o'clock p.m.; provided that if no more Members rise to speak before 9.30 o'clock p.m., the debate shall be adjourned to another sitting day.

Is there agreement?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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**PRIVILEGE****PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX**

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I was not in the House earlier when a question of privilege was raised with regard to brochures on the goods and services tax that were being distributed through the supermarkets. I felt it might be useful to you if I made a comment on that particular matter.

Since your ruling, Mr. Speaker, there have been no further information materials on the proposed goods and services tax made available for distribution through supermarkets. These brochures were printed originally in early August around the time of the release of the technical paper. They were intended to be complementary to the technical paper to provide more information to Canadians. As you can see, they are in a much more accessible form and therefore easier for Canadians to read.

As was planned at that time, the contract for the distribution of the brochures has ended and has not been renewed. At the expiry of the contract it was the responsibility of the contractor in his dealings with the supermarkets to collect the unused brochures and return them to the Department of Finance.

I am advised that the contractor responsible for the distribution has assured my officials that by end of October there were no brochures remaining in supermarkets. If any member of Parliament has any informa-