

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, I had no idea the government House leader would raise this matter today.

Mr. Cousineau: You asked questions yesterday.

Mr. Nielsen: I am glad the hon. member who interjected is awake and alive—for a change—to the fact that these questions are being put.

The government House leader has given a rather lengthy and, I must say, complex reply, including the citation of numbered sections of the Government Organization Act. I would like to read what he has said in *Hansard*, and I trust I will be allowed the liberty on Monday to respond, should I choose to do so.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, I object. Yesterday, these people got upset, they raised a point of order claiming that they were aware of the situation, and now they want time to look into it—

Madam Speaker: Order, order!

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITION

MISS MACDONALD—POLAND—IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Madam Speaker, I have a duty to present a petition on behalf of my constituents. The purpose of this petition, which is signed by 125 concerned Canadians primarily of the Polish community in Kingston and the Islands, is to protest in the strongest way possible the statements made by the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Trudeau) regarding the imposition of martial law in Poland, statements which they feel give aid and comfort to the enemies of democracy in Poland.

● (1210)

The nature of this petition is to demand a retraction of these statements and to urge that the Prime Minister join with other western leaders to denounce the imposition of martial law and the influence being exerted by the Soviet Union to suppress the fundamental rights of Polish citizens.

It is my hope that the Prime Minister will be attentive to these pleadings and that he will carry out the proposals put forward by the petitioners.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Order Paper Questions

[Translation]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

CHANGES TO WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, contrary to what I announced yesterday concerning the order of business in the House, today we shall proceed immediately with consideration of the Canagrex bill. The bill was on the agenda for today, but I had indicated that before considering this bill, we would be bringing in Ways and Means motions. I had also promised my fellow House leaders to give them a copy of the bill so they would be able to look into it during the weekend. However, I am unfortunately unable to meet this very legitimate request. Therefore, as a courtesy to the House, we shall not bring in the Ways and Means motion today. We shall be doing so next week, and consideration of the borrowing authority bill will be postponed at least one day to enable my opposition colleagues to examine it. The order of business is therefore as follows: today, we shall be considering the Canagrex bill; Monday, as announced, the House will be considering a bill to amend the National Housing Act; Tuesday, we shall continue consideration of the National Housing Act, and if the borrowing authority bill has been tabled and the Ways and Means motions approved, we shall probably be starting consideration of the borrowing authority bill on Wednesday. Thursday, as I just said, we shall be resuming debate on the National Housing Act. Actually, the only change is that today we shall not be bringing in Ways and Means motions, and instead of considering the borrowing authority bill on Tuesday and Wednesday, it will probably be only Wednesday.

[English]

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): On the point of order, Madam Speaker; now that we are on House business, I wonder whether the hon. gentleman could tell me if it is the intention of the government to introduce the new Crown corporation act before the end of February or, if not by that date, when?

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: I shall consult the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Johnston) and my other cabinet colleagues, and I hope to be able to provide further clarification within the next few weeks.

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[English]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 2,700, 2,989, 2,990, 3,004 and 3,548.