

establish the special committee on the amending formula of the Constitution.

Tomorrow, I will be calling for report stage and possibly third reading of a number of bills which are important, though non-controversial, and hopefully they will be dealt with expeditiously: Bill C-63 on race relations, Bill C-68 on Yukon mining, Bill C-72 on the polar commission and Bill C-82 dealing with Quebec harbours.

On Monday, I hope to call for report stage under time allocation Bill C-84, the Petro-Canada bill, and on Tuesday, third and final reading of Bill C-84.

I will be in discussion with House leaders of the other parties with respect to further business for the rest of next week.

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POINT OF ORDER

QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise a point of order, if I may. Members on this side of the House would like from you, particularly in view of what happened to my colleague from Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte when he raised a question and then was asked by the Chair to rephrase the question, in which he obliged the Chair and then stood in his place for his customary second question and was thereafter informed by the Chair that he was out of order.

This may have been an inadvertence on the Chair's part, but members on this side, and particularly the hon. member, would like to have a full explanation if not today, perhaps tomorrow, as to what transpired, denying him the opportunity to phrase a second question which we believe on this side was very germane to the discussion which was taking place today.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps I can settle it now. I do not want to in any way offend the hon. member who is an experienced member of this House but as I heard the question, he was clearly linking the Prime Minister with comments including the word "corruption". I felt that that was out of order. I may not have made it clear that I felt that he should go to his second question and get on with it.

Speaker's Ruling

If I have erred by moving too rapidly I, of course, apologize but that is the explanation I give. I thank the hon. member for asking the question.

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[*Translation*]

PRIVILEGE

BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS—REQUEST FOR RESEARCH FUNDS—SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: On Tuesday, November 27, 1990, the hon. member for Shefford raised a question of privilege related to a request he had submitted to the Board of Internal Economy to fund research for his group and to fund the office of the leader of the group. As Chairman of the Board of Internal Economy, I wrote to the hon. member to inform him of the Board's decision.

The hon. member had read the letter into the record and went on to challenge the fairness of the Board's decision, arguing with some vigour that "all hon. members should be treated the same" and that he and his colleagues must have the same rights and privileges as any other member in this House. The hon. member concluded with these words "— I beseech you to reverse your decision and if you refuse, you should at least have the decency to explain why."

These are strong words indeed. It appears to me that in presenting his impassioned case for additional funding for his group, the hon. member for Shefford has implied that the Chair has dealt in a high-handed and unfair manner towards certain members of this House. Furthermore, his words leave the entirely erroneous impression that the independent members in his group are being discriminated against.

As your Speaker, I cannot allow these erroneous impressions to stand unchallenged for they cast doubt on the impartiality of the Chair and risk tarnishing the whole House with the brush of unfairness.

[*English*]

First, let me state clearly that board decisions are made by the Board of Internal Economy, not by your Speaker. As Speaker, I am the chairman of that board and I preside over the deliberations of members, from all sides of the House, who sit as voting members of the board. These include the Deputy Speaker, the hon. government House leader, the hon. President of the Treasury Board, the House leader of the Official Opposition, the House leader of the New Democratic Party, the