

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask my hon. friend whether he is ready to give us the business at the House for Thursday next week.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Hon. Government House Leader could answer that question in a moment. Either we treat these motions when they are put or I have to defer them to motions. I will simply ask if there is unanimous consent to the suggestion and, there being unanimous consent, is it the will of the House that the matter relating to business of the House for Monday be adopted?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed. The Hon. Member for Windsor West asked a question concerning Thursday of next week. Perhaps the Government House Leader could answer it.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I am still considering the possibility of business. As the practice has developed, I should like to consult fully with my colleagues, the House Leaders, with respect to business. We did not have an opportunity to meet today. We meet on a daily basis, which is the joy of my existence; there is nothing more exciting than having an opportunity to discuss the future deliberations of the House with my colleagues. Seriously, I hope to consult with them and put forward a proposal with respect to the business of the House for the last two days of next week. I hope we can get on with the business of the House of Commons in an expeditious manner.

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I assure the Hon. Government House Leader that there is still a couple of hours left; we could cram in a meeting today. Would he be in a position to indicate to the House whether the Government is intending to establish a committee to deal with the questions directly relating to women? He knows that I raised this question with him previously and he indicated that he was taking the matter under advisement. Since the Striking Committee will report tomorrow on the structure and composition of committees, I was wondering whether we might know something about that in advance of the report of the Striking Committee.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: My colleague, the Secretary of State (Mr. McLean), early on in our mandate raised with me this question concerning the very important suggestion of the House Leader of the New Democratic Party. I believe my colleague is in the process of considering a variety of options, which I am sure he will want to discuss with the critics in each Party. I know I speak on behalf of the Government and the Secretary of State when I say to the NDP House Leader that we appreciate his suggestion and that of the Hon. Member for Vancouver East last week. We consider this to be a very important topic. We want to ensure that whatever we do is done in the full spirit of consultation and to the best effect of parliamentary deliberations on matters relating to the women of Canada.

The Address—Mr. Plamondon

Mr. Speaker: May I just say to the Hon. House Leaders that I allowed that question because it was in the tradition of a question by one of the Party House Leaders. However, the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain put me in some difficulty. I should advise him of that because we ruled out a question of the same kind about 10 days ago as it was anticipatory. I let it go today because of the traditions of House Leaders, but I would ask him to consider what I said at that time about anticipatory matters.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITION

CALL FOR REINSTATEMENT OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. Norman Warner (Stormont-Dundas): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour and privilege to present to the House a petition on behalf of the residents of Stormont-Dundas. They believe in the reinstatement of capital punishment for the conviction of first degree murder. Punishments are set to fit the crime and in cases of premeditated murder the supreme crime merits the supreme punishment.

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[Translation]

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Ken James for an Address to Her Excellency the Governor General in reply to her Speech at the opening of the session; and the amendment thereto of Mr. Allmand (p. 252).

Mr. Louis Plamondon (Richelieu): If I may, Mr. Speaker, I should like to conclude the speech I began this morning and which I had to interrupt for the one o'clock adjournment, when I was talking about the merchant marine and the shipbuilding policy.

Since capital costs cannot be reduced through grants under the Petroleum Incentives Program, most oil companies lease tankers rather than have them built in Canada. It should be noted that our foreign competitors provide low cost financing and other direct or indirect grants, whereas the Canadian Government refunds up to 80 per cent of the applicable excise tax to the importer.

January imports are the last of a long and depressing list of foreign imports into Canada. Those four ships represent a loss of about \$55 million for Canadian shipyards and related industries. In 1983, Canada imported 38 ships, for an over-all 198,743-ton capacity. That represents the largest number of