

Business of the House

Could the minister who, as a Quebecer, knows just how much the residential rehabilitation assistance program is a success in the province of Quebec, make representation to his colleague the Minister of Finance for the purpose of re-establishing this program as soon as possible?

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I should like to tell my hon. colleague that we have indeed observed the impact the reduction of this program has had not only on the Quebec region, but also on some others. As we are now in the process of preparing the forthcoming budget, this is one of the items we will look into very carefully.

Mr. Ouellet: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. I suggest the minister's reply was not adequate. The various provincial ministers responsible for housing are going to meet next week and this program is expected to expire at the end of December. Therefore, a reply is required very shortly.

Because the city of Montreal, which had set up its own housing rehabilitation program to supplement the Federal program, will be most adversely affected by this Ottawa decision, the number of tenants there being the greatest in Canada, it will likely be forced to give up its own program. Could the minister accept at least that the rental component continue to apply to all Canadian cities which have their own program to supplement the federal program?

Mr. Loiselle: Mr. Speaker, I could tell the Hon. Member that even before he contacted me about this problem, my colleague from the Conservative caucus had already done so with tremendous energy. They have already made representations concerning this to my colleague responsible for housing. We are in fact very actively looking into this.

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[English]

POINTS OF ORDER

COMMENTS DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, during Question Period today I am afraid that the Minister of National Revenue inadvertently misled the House. I know he did not do it intentionally.

I think it is important that we clarify for the record what the member from Yorkton—Melville said the other day regarding the profitable corporations that do not pay any income tax. He said that in 1987 there were over 93,000 profitable corporations that failed to pay income tax because of the various tax exemptions in the tax act. I think that is the appropriate comment. That was in 1987, on profits of \$27 billion. Then the minister confirmed that a year later, 1988, the year that we do not really have adequate statistics for yet, there were still 50,000 profitable corporations not paying any income tax.

We appreciate the minister's clarification of that. We were not certain what the number was for 1988 but now we know it is 50,000.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. During the course of my quoting an article from the *Montreal Gazette* in response to a question from the member for Moncton, I am advised that I used the word "members" and it should have been individuals, rather than members. I would not want to leave the inference that it was Members of Parliament. They were individuals.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the usual Thursday business question. I know that the Government House Leader will be unable to give a complete response because certain discussions are under way with respect to the business on Monday and Tuesday, which I feel will likely be resolved in a way that will be satisfactory to all sides of the House. But I think, in conformity with our custom, I should ask the question in the first instance now.

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I will have more precise details to share with the House very shortly, as we are reworking the wording of a House order upon which we have agreed.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues, the House Leader of the Official Opposition and the House Leader for the New Democratic Party for their assistance in bringing this about.