

portfolio to push AHOP programs, people such as those in the Bear Creek estates have been ripped off by fly-by-night contractors, as I have discussed with the minister on numerous occasions, and by the government directive that housing inspectors inspect only for the security of the money lenders, while the home buyer is left out in the cold. I would like to know why there was nothing about housing in the Speech from the Throne and why there is no protection for the home buyer.

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, if all ministers had been allowed to include paragraphs on programs concerning their respective departments, Her Majesty would still be reading the Speech from the Throne. I do not mean that my department has no precise programs on housing to provide Canadians with the houses they need. The program referred to by the hon. member is precisely intended to help people acquire a house, that is low income people who receive important grants to buy their first house. I know the particulars referred to by the hon. member. We have discussed that question many times. We have asked our officials in the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, mostly those from British Columbia, to verify inspections more closely and correct possible deficiencies in that particular program referred to by the hon. member. This work has been done. We hope that past mistakes will not be repeated in the future.

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[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. This is the first Thursday in the session and I suppose I should ask my first House business question. In the absence of the government House leader I want to recognize and congratulate the deputy government House leader who has assumed that responsibility with his new portfolio. If I may say so on this point of order, what has disturbed me and a number of us is that we have now followed the precedent that was begun last year of not having affixed to the Throne Speech a list of the legislation that the government intends to call, which indicates to me that the government may well not be prepared. The minister could drive that suspicion out of my mind if he could undertake to table later this day with our consent, or perhaps tomorrow, a list of the legislation which the government intends to call during the session. I say to him it is important because I believe it can facilitate the work of the session. Is such a list available and can he table it tomorrow?

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, first of all I deeply appreciate the kind words of my colleague opposite. I look forward to working closely with him and others in the House to expedite the business of the House.

Privilege—Miss Bégin

With regard to the list of proposed legislation for consideration, I am not in a position to indicate that I can do that at this time. Quite clearly, next Thursday, which is a week from now, we will be in a much better position to do that, I think. I can assure the hon. member and all members of the House that indeed we are prepared with legislation for this session and I will make announcements at that time if the President of the Privy Council, the House leader, is not here. So I think that will have to satisfy the hon. member. In the meantime we will continue with the Throne Speech debate, uninterrupted until next Friday.

● (1202)

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the minister for his undertaking that he will be producing a list of legislation next Thursday. With respect to this list, which I look forward to receiving, can the minister tell us whether some bills which appeared on the order paper of October 17, beyond the ones which were extended by order of the House, will be appearing on this new list of legislation? In other words, to what extent will the list he produces indicate the extent of the carry-over of legislation from the order paper of the last session?

Mr. Cafik: I should draw to the hon. member's attention that I did not indicate that I would be producing a list next Thursday.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): I thought you did.

Mr. Cafik: What I did indicate is that by next Thursday we will have an opportunity to discuss this matter further in a co-operative way, I am sure, and hopefully all hon. members will be made aware of the plans of the government with respect to House business by that time.

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Miss Bégin: Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise a question of privilege with respect to the political speech containing no direct question but addressed to me during the question period by the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker). With television now in the House, such a practice is misleading to the public. I very deeply resent the hon. member's accusations to the effect that as Minister of National Health and Welfare I am personally continuing the persecution of a civil servant in my department. The hon. member should know that the case of Dr. Sant Singh has to do with a promotion beyond the highest pay range in the ES group of employees and has nothing to do with his participation in any political activities which according to the facts were approved by the Public Service Commission.

I would like the hon. member to display more trust, respect and confidence in the judicial process of this country. Notice of appeal of the adjudicator's decision has been filed with the Federal Court of Canada. I do not intend to interfere with the judicial process. I would like to add that when I was a civil servant I understood that I was in the service of Canada. Now