

outlet. I wonder whether the minister has investigated the matter and whether other cases have been brought to his attention where less product is available at the same price in the conversion from pounds to the metric system? I would also like to congratulate my constituency review board which brought this to my attention, a group composed of volunteers.

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member who sent to my office these exhibits which have been submitted to the officials of my department for inquiry. I can assure him and the other hon. members, that I will inform him of the new developments in this matter.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

PRIVILEGE

MR. JELINEK—ALLEGED DISPARAGING REMARKS BY MINISTER

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs on a question of privilege.

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, when the hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley (Mr. Jelinek) raised a question of privilege, you told the House that you would give me the opportunity to express my views before making any decision on the matter.

I only wish to say that last Monday, when the hon. member asked his question, he denounced fraudulent practices used in the financing of Olympic coins. This severe denunciation is found at page 10,002 of *Hansard*. In answer to his question, I said, as recorded on page 10,000:

On the other hand, if the hon. member has elements of proof or other pertinent information to convey, I shall be pleased to transmit them to the director of inquiries.

But, two days after those remarks I checked with my office before coming to the House at two o'clock and the hon. member had not sent me those elements of proof nor had he sent them to my staff. This leads me to say that the hon. member seems more interested in his own question than in the answer given and the purpose of his questions has always puzzled me: they stem either from malice or from insignificance. The hon. member said yesterday that he was not trying to be malicious. Having no reason to doubt his word, I must therefore conclude that the second alternative is right.

● (1500)

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. As indicated yesterday, the role of the Chair in deciding on this difference between two members of the House has been made a great deal easier by virtue of the fact that the hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley (Mr. Jelinek), in raising the question

Business of the House

of privilege, originally did not add to it a motion which might seek any action on the part of the Chair. In many cases the chances are that the decision would have been the same, and that is that it is a matter of difference and debate between two members and cannot be classified as a question of privilege.

* * *

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE CHRISTMAS RECESS

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order in respect of the business of the House for tomorrow. I am not asking the usual Thursday question; I know that today is Wednesday.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): In view of reports we are getting from outside the House that an important statement may be made tomorrow, can we be told whether it will be on statements at two o'clock, or is it to be at eight o'clock; and in any case, do any special House arrangements have to be made for it?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, although it is Wednesday it might be useful if I were also, and in addition to answering the specific question put by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, to give an indication of the government's program for the period before the adjournment. The government wishes to dispose of the final stages of the bill now under discussion at the report stage, Bill C-69, and then Bill C-77 and Bill C-52. I will also be putting down an adjournment motion which will recommend that we resume the session on January 26.

On resuming the session, the government will call the remainder of the sessional program, including Bill C-58. I mention that first because I want to emphasize that this bill continues to have the full commitment of the government.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Sharp: We will also be calling, specifically, among a number of bills, C-41, C-20, C-68, C-71 and C-61, and if the Minister of Justice decides he wants to proceed with Bill C-72, that might also be part of our program. It was not clear whether the bill was put down at this point for first reading and comment, to be then reintroduced, but I will be consulting the Minister of Justice to see whether he wishes to continue with Bill C-72 during the present session.

Mr. Speaker, to come to the specific question asked by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, tomorrow I intend, on motions, to seek the agreement of the House to revert to statements and the tabling of documents by ministers at eight o'clock for the purpose of a statement to be made by the President of the Treasury Board on economies in the government, and for the Minister of Finance to table the regulations under the anti-inflation act.

Mr. Stanfield: Why does that have to be done tomorrow night?