

hold from the market meat that is unfit for human consumption, what instructions did the minister give his inspectors to keep this meat off the market while the investigation was going on.

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, it was an extremely complex inquiry, once again, which involved criminal elements as well as following up and conducting the inquiry once the first indications being identified were referred to the police. Therefore, the police forces conducted the inquiry until they were able to get sufficient evidence for the Inquiry Commission on Organized Crime to proceed.

[English]

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN  
QUEBEC AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONCERNING MEAT  
INSPECTION

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, that is pure evasion. I should like to ask the minister whether he would consult with the government of Quebec and seek permission of the government of Quebec to table in the House any communication between himself or the leader of the Government of Canada and a minister or the Prime Minister of the province of Quebec on the subject of the inspection of meat in that province during the last two years.

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, as far as I know, there were no written exchanges of that kind.

[English]

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I wish to refer to a question I asked during the course of the question period. On May 9, 1975, I asked the President of the Treasury Board certain very specific questions. He said that he had the answer to those questions in a letter he delivered to me. I will publicly release the contents of the letter, but I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that this is a distortion of the whole purpose of the estimates and the whole purpose of the question period. The President of the Treasury Board should be ashamed of himself for not dealing fairly with this House. This is what he said—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member realizes that the quality of any answer given by any minister at any time is not a subject for debate at this time.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** The quality is like that of the meat in Quebec.

**Mr. Kaplan:** Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak to the question of privilege which is now before you. I appreciate that you propose to rule on the matter next Monday. In view of the way in which the hon. member for York-Simcoe attempted yesterday to join his question of privilege—which you have ruled invalid—with my own, I want to make it clear that I am not making any complaint about anything that took place outside this chamber, in committee, either as to the conduct of the hon. member in committee or the

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procedure of the committee. The question that I raised relates entirely to the language of the hon. member in this House.

● (1200)

**Mr. Stevens:** Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege is in response to the question of privilege raised recently by the hon. member for York Centre. I just want to point out to you, Mr. Speaker, that I received a copy of the letter which the hon. member sent to you and in my opinion he appears to be reversing the position that he had taken earlier in his question of privilege. Today I felt that he confirmed that reversal, and I would draw Your Honour's attention to the actual request that he made in his initial question of privilege, which was that the ruling be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections and that nothing be done concerning language in this House, as the hon. member has indicated today.

**Mr. Speaker:** I propose to consider all elements of the question raised by hon. members and will make a decision at three o'clock on Monday afternoon.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. Charles Turner (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 1,983, 2,032, 2,121, 2,153, 2,158, 2,268, 2,360 and 2,377.

**Mr. Speaker,** if question No. 1,116 and starred question No. 1,910 could be made orders for return, these returns would be tabled immediately.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Text]

### CONSULTING SERVICES

Question No. 1,983—**Mr. Reynolds:**

Was a contract awarded by the Department of Supply and Services in September 1973 to Systems Approach Ltd., Ottawa, Ontario for consulting services at Ottawa and, if so (a) for what purpose (b) were tenders requested on this contract?

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services):** Yes. (a) This contract was placed on behalf of the Department of National Defence to develop an analytical model which would indicate the absolute and time-dependent effects of various Forces-development decisions in relation to future DND budgetary requirements. (b) Tenders were not called for this requirement. DND requested the services of this specific contractor due to the time constraint and because he was the only known con-