Mr. Ouellet: Mr. Speaker, a meeting was held a few days ago. I asked my officials for a report which I am to receive in early January. There are a few technical points I want to check. Moreover, I am waiting for additional representations from the expropriated which are to be sent to me through their MP; as soon as the hon. member for Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes has handed them over I hope to be able to reach a decision in the first few weeks of January. In any event, I am sure the expropriated can spend a very happy Christmas.

* *

• (1202)

[English]

PRIVILEGE

MR. PARKER—REPLY OF MINISTER DURING QUESTION PERIOD— RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. Speaker: On December 18 the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Parker) raised by way of a question of privilege that the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Abbott) had used language which offended him, and he asked for a determination as to whether the language was unparliamentary. I indicated at the time that my recollection of the language was that it was not.

I examined the record, as I indicated I would; and I also examined two precedents which may be of assistance to the hon. member, one under date of July 19, 1960, at page 6553 of *Hansard* and the other on November 16, 1977, at page 941 of *Hansard*. In light of both of those precedents it seems to me that the language lacks specificity. Therefore, there would be no grounds upon which I could intervene.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

COASTAL FISHERIES PROTECTION ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING REVISION OF PENALTIES

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-36, to amend the Coastal Fisheries Protection Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

[Mr. La Salle.]

[English]

SMALL BUSINESS RECOGNITION ACT

MEASURE TO PROVIDE EQUAL TREATMENT WITH COMPETITORS

Mr. Frank Maine (Wellington) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-456, to promote the participation of small business in federal government programs and contracts.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Maine: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to give small businesses in Canada the same special favourable and preferential treatment that is given to their competitors, United States small businesses, by the United States government, especially in the area of government procurement and research and development support.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Speaker: Introduction of Bills. Mr. Chrétien?

Mr. Chrétien: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would rather not introduce the bill today.

* * *

[Translation]

FUGITIVE OFFENDERS ACT

MEASURE RESPECTING APPREHENSION OF FUGITIVE OFFENDERS

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (for the Minister of Justice) moved that Bill S-9 (from the Senate), respecting fugitive offenders in Canada, be read the first time.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

* * *

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

CHRISTMAS RECESS

On the order: Motions:

December 18, 1978—The Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council:

That, when the House adjourns following the disposal of the third reading stage of Bill C-14, an act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, it shall stand adjourned until a time to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, after consultation with the government, when the House may meet for the purpose of dealing with any subsequent proceeding on the said bill or the giving of royal assent to the said bill and any other bills then ready for royal assent;

That after the disposal of such proceedings or in the event the House does not meet for those purposes, the House shall be adjourned or stand adjourned, as the case may be, until January 23, 1979, provided that at any time prior to that date if it appears to the satisfaction of Mr. Speaker, after consultation with the government, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, Mr. Speaker may give notice that he is so satisfied, and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice, and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time; and