

absence last week. I did so. The spirit in which we are approaching the preparation of the joint address, and in particular the charter of rights, is one in which we want to seek the broadest possible support. We are willing to accept sensible resolutions from both parties, provided the resolutions improve the charter, but Conservative members are playing games with us.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Kaplan:** They are putting forward an amendment designed to give Canadian people the impression that they stand for the right of enjoyment of property.

**Some hon. Members:** We do.

**Mr. Kaplan:** Yet, they have made it very clear that that charter of rights is not to apply. It is not to be binding and available for the citizens of Canada. It must be submitted to the provincial governments. We view that as an unsatisfactory state of affairs in this country.

It has been referred to as a checkerboard in which the arsenal of rights and freedoms provided for all Canadians, or prepared by the government for all Canadians, should only be binding from province to province.

**An hon. Member:** What did you say last week?

**Mr. Kaplan:** Our approach, and I believe the continued approach of the Minister of Justice, will be to try to encourage the participation of all members, to take any amendments which will strengthen the charter and will add support to it. As was indicated, following the meeting it appeared that the amendment, however well-meaning we were in the position we took, would not increase the support for it; in fact it would reduce the support for it.

**Mr. Beatty:** By 32.

**Mr. Kaplan:** The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) characterized my position as a statement under oath. It was far from it. It was a negotiation which was taking place in the committee. It was a give and take effort, which is the spirit in which I approached that responsibility to improve the bill of rights and to increase support for it.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. David Crombie (Rosedale):** Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege in relation to the remarks just made by the Solicitor General (Mr. Kaplan). I gather there is some—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. Is the hon. member rising on the question of privilege introduced by the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker), or is he rising on a new one?

**Mr. Crombie:** Madam Speaker, I am rising on a question of privilege flowing from the remarks made by the Solicitor General.

*Privilege—Mr. W. Baker*

**Madam Speaker:** I would say that probably the hon. member wants to intervene on the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton, and I recognize him now.

**Mr. Crombie:** Madam Speaker, I will try to be brief. I have some difficulty trying to raise the question which bothers me without transgressing into the area which Your Honour has already admonished us not to, that is, the proceedings of the committee.

The Solicitor General indicated that hon. members opposite to him were playing games in the committee. That is somewhat the basis of my question of privilege. Throughout all the discussions since Thursday and Friday, and today the questions in the House, the undertaking about which people have remarked that the Solicitor General gave, was an undertaking to me. It is a matter of public record for anyone to read.

After I made an intervention at a particular meeting, the Solicitor General—

**Madam Speaker:** I gather that particular meeting is the committee; I was not there either.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Wait until you hear it.

**An hon. Member:** This is absurd.

**Madam Speaker:** Even if the hon. member does not mention the committee, he cannot refer to the proceedings. Now that is exactly what he was doing, although I have not read the proceedings. So, I ask him to speak about what happened in the House this afternoon.

**Mr. Crombie:** Madam Speaker, I apologize for that. It is a serious matter to me and I simply want to get out the entire story as I understand it because I was not here on Friday and Monday.

**Mr. Epp:** Here is a press report; here is another one.

**Mr. Crombie:** Let me go by press reports then. The facts of the matter are that the Solicitor General gave an undertaking—it is a matter of public record—with respect to a motion that we include property rights in a charter of rights. It was a solemn undertaking to me as a member of that committee and as a member of this House.

When the Solicitor General speaks in this House on matters outside the House and when he uses the words “playing games”, not only am I personally offended by that, because it was an undertaking I felt was given to me, but I have refrained from making any comment publicly until I heard from the Solicitor General. The first thing I hear from the Solicitor General is that I am accused of playing games.

**Mr. Collette:** That is not what he said.

**Mr. Crombie:** I would like him to withdraw it.

**Madam Speaker:** The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark).