

Business of the House

farmer high and dry". That is a very strong commitment on behalf of the Government from the Minister of Finance to support farmers in the future.

Mr. Speaker: I will recognize the Hon. Member for Eglinton—Lawrence for a question and a supplementary. That will close off Question Period.

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THE DISABLED AND THE HANDICAPPED

DEPARTMENTS' EMPLOYMENT RECORD

Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State of Canada and the Minister of National Health and Welfare my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the Departments of these two Minister have a major, basic, fundamental responsibility for the needs and concerns of the disabled and the handicapped, how does the Government account for the fact that in the Department of the Secretary of State and the Department of National Health and Welfare only 1 per cent of the employees are disabled and handicapped—in other words only one in every one hundred—while the national average is six in every one hundred? Why is the policy of the Government: "Don't do as I do, do as I say"?

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am not authorized to answer for the two departments mentioned by my colleague. Yesterday however the Hon. Member quoted figures which are false and do not reflect reality. On the basis of the figures I am about to give him, I would ask him to check again the figures he has today because yesterday he said that Employment and Immigration Canada was one of the departments with the smallest number of handicapped employees. I would remind my colleague that 708 people are registered as handicapped employees working for the department. This amounts to 2.54 per cent, definitely more than the standards set by Treasury Board.

So in the case of the two departments he mentioned today I would ask him to check his figures before making the kind of statements we have just heard.

[English]

Mr. de Corneille: I am shocked that the Minister would say that the figures from the Challenge report which his Department gave to the Subcommittee on the Disabled and the Handicapped are incorrect when those are the very figures his Department gave to the committee. It is shameful for him to deny that now.

REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, will the Deputy Prime Minister in his capacity as

House Leader take immediate steps to establish the Subcommittee on the Disabled and the Handicapped as a permanent standing committee of the House of Commons so that it will have the credibility and the status it needs to carry out its own recommendations?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the suggestion put forward by the Hon. Member is indeed a worthy one. However, it is one of those types of things that are normally transacted during the course of the discussions that take place among House Leaders. Perhaps the Hon. Member might want to ask his House Leader to raise it at our next meeting.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, it being Thursday I would like to ask the Deputy Prime Minister what legislative menu the Government intends to bring before the House in the coming week.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, tomorrow will be another allotted day. On Monday the House does not sit. Tuesday will be another allotted day. On Wednesday we will be proceeding with third reading of Bill C-37, followed by Bill C-57.

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[Translation]

PRIVILEGE

ALLEGED USE OF UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I want to raise a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: What is it this time?

Mr. Masse: I believe many of my colleagues on this side of the House clearly heard our colleague from Montreal—Sainte-Marie use, in our exchange of questions and answers, words which seem quite unparliamentary to us.

I can understand that Hon. Members may have exchanges on personal views, but as to the form, Mr. Speaker, I have always shown respect for my colleagues in the House and each Member is entitled to expect to be so treated. I believe the words used by the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) were clearly unparliamentary and, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, he should withdraw them.