

Privilege

are banned in Canada and could create a health hazard for Canadian consumers?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the question has an undertone of a lot of allegations which I would want to check into very carefully. I am sure the hon. member would not want to leave the impression that there are some allegations which may or may not be substantiated.

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FUNDING FOR WOMEN'S CENTRES

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. In 1987 his government endorsed the Fairness and Funding report of the Standing Committee of the Secretary of State. This report recommended operational funding for women's organizations. After he left his meeting last week with women's centres representatives, his under-secretary called the Fairness and Funding report a worthless piece of paper.

Does the Secretary of State agree with his deputy's analysis of a government-endorsed report and, if so, what other government-endorsed reports are also worthless pieces of paper?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)): Mr. Speaker, I accept neither the premise nor the hypothesis of the question.

• (1500)

A meeting was held between myself and representatives of women's centres from coast to coast. It was a very good meeting. Together we have agreed to try to work out a process for a future for the women's centres in partnership, of course, with the provinces and with others who may have a strong interest in the matter. I believe they understand very clearly what the reality of the current situation is: that there is less money now available. That is why core funding was discontinued. We have agreed to get back to them as early as possible after we have had a thorough review of the suggestions we are looking at together.

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State indicated that he dis-

cussed with these women a process for funding women's centres. In the meantime, centre after centre is locking its doors and closing down. They are unable to help the women coming to them for information and referrals for battered women.

When is the Secretary of State going to ensure that these women's centres that are now closed will be opened and continue to serve the needs of women in this country?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)): Mr. Speaker, the process is well under way. The meeting I was privileged to participate in went very well. From what I understand the representatives of women's centres appeared to be pleased as well.

I do not preclude that the people working in women's centres may not be desirous of putting in applications right now for project funding, which is available. If applications are completed right now, we will be very helpful in seeing that they are expedited, and funds for projects can continue to roll even while we examine whatever process they want me to look at.

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PRIVILEGE**HOUSE OF COMMONS STATIONERY**

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege on a matter that I brought to the attention of the Chair last week. Mr. Speaker, you will recall that on April 18, 1990 I wrote to you concerning what I believe to be a matter of privilege. On that date a story appeared in *The Toronto Star* alleging that a letter printed on House of Commons stationery signed by someone who is not a current member of the House of Commons had been circulating in the United States and some 100,000 copies of this letter had been sent to a number of American citizens.

Upon verification, I did obtain a copy of the material in question and I will take a moment or two to summarize it for the benefit of the Chair.

I want to say at the outset—

Mr. Andre: Point of order.

Mr. Boudria: Since when does a point of order—