

Opposition understands the law and its application in administrative fields.

**Mr. Clark:** Will you give us an undertaking to consult with the charitable organizations concerned?

**Mr. Trudeau:** The departments are at all times called upon to administer the law under their jurisdiction. The government has nothing to do with this. It is the function of the departments to put these documents together, and they are as helpful as they can be to the citizens concerned.

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### PRIVILEGE

MR. WOOLLIAMS—APOLOGY FOR BREACH OF CONFIDENCE

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. When I received this package from the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford) I opened it. It was not sent to me in confidence. The envelope was upside down. I did see a note from the Minister of Justice that the bill would be read later today. I want to apologise. It was an accident on my part because I did not read the outside of the envelope. The Minister of Justice has confirmed that. I just want to say, after having been here a number of years, that I have never broken confidence with any minister or any member of this House.

● (1502)

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

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my answer, I fully accept the statement of the hon. member. He and I have been either minister or official critic for quite some time, and I know that our relationship is such that confidences are not broken.

MR. COSSITT—HOUSE OF COMMONS—VACANCIES IN MEMBERSHIP

**Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a very brief question of privilege. Under the rules of the House I know that I do not have the right to object—and I certainly would not—to the fact that the Chair saw fit in its judgment not to allow me a supplementary question. In retrospect I realize that this judgment was probably quite correct and that the supplementary question which I had for the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is really a question of privilege rather than a question.

In about 50 words or less I would like to outline that question of privilege. As of today there are approximately 14 House of Commons vacancies, and over one million Canadians are deprived of representation in this House. This obviously interferes with House business with regard to having full Commons committees operating, having quorums at all times and so forth. These vacancies increase the workload of hard-working members who are already here and who must fill in by assisting in representing those constituencies which are not

### Introduction of Bills

represented. I ask the Prime Minister on this question of privilege why he does not, despite the hon. member for Kitchener (Mr. Flynn), call an election immediately?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member will realize that he does have a question and not a question of privilege.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1978

OMNIBUS MEASURE

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-51, to amend the Criminal Code, the Canada Evidence Act and the Parole Act.

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

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[Translation]

### WINDING-UP ACT

PUBLICATION OF NOTICES IN BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-449, to amend the Winding-Up Act (publication of notices).

**Some hon. Members:** Explain.

**Mr. Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this amendment to the Winding-Up Act is to extend to all provinces in Canada the requirement that public notices and announcements be issued in both official languages.

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

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### RAILWAY ACT

USE OF BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES AND ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC SYMBOLS

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-450, to amend the Railway Act (signs, notices and forms).

**Some hon. Members:** Explain.

**Mr. Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this amendment is to remove from this act the restrictive