

Urban Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) since I have no time for a minister who has no time for his job. The minister had known for several days that today was going to be an opposition day, that we were going to deal with housing, transportation and energy, matters falling within his area of responsibility. Yet today he left the House early. Why, Mr. Speaker? To go to Quebec City for a political function. I realize that he is the lieutenant for the Liberal party—

Mr. Blais: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. The Postmaster General (Mr. Blais) is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member, I hope unintentionally, is misleading the House. The notice of motion of the hon. member for Ottawa-Carleton (Mrs. Pigott) was tabled in the House some time after three o'clock yesterday afternoon. Unless the Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) had some sort of intuitive knowledge of the intentions of the hon. member for Ottawa-Carleton, I fail to see how he should have known of the nature of this particular motion.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. The hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Whiteway).

● (1532)

Mr. Whiteway: I certainly do not want to mislead the House. If the minister did not know for several days, I stand corrected. He has known for an adequate length of time, however, and surely his first responsibility is to this House of Commons.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whiteway: If the Postmaster General (Mr. Blais) does not know what ministerial responsibility is I will give him a lecture on that, but I assume he knows it.

Mr. Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I find the comment of the hon. member quite distasteful. I must remind the House that the minister was in committee yesterday when the hon. member was present, and he was in committee again this morning when the hon. member was present. The hon. member knows very well that at five o'clock yesterday afternoon when we learned about today's motion, the minister had planned a trip outside the city and had to cancel it in order to accommodate the hon. member this morning in committee, and this afternoon in the House. Let us be fair.

An hon. Member: Where is he now?

Mr. Whiteway: Mr. Speaker, hon. members opposite will have to get their act together. One knew at three o'clock, the other did not know until five o'clock—I cannot help with the problems on that side. The fact is, the minister is not in the House. He is a Quebec lieutenant for the Liberal party, but judging by his performance in the provincial election a year ago he ought to be a buck private. For his performance as

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Minister of State for Urban Affairs he should receive a dishonourable discharge. From the way he spoke today, however, you would think he was a general.

I should like to deal specifically with two areas, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to deal with Liberal lies, but that is unparliamentary language so I shall call them Liberal "misleadings." I shall quote from certain documents on that score. Secondly, I shall deal with the question of federal-provincial relations and how the minister deliberately misled the House today. He had a document in front of him which I saw—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. I must remind the hon. member that the words "deliberately misleading" are not parliamentary. We hope he will not use unparliamentary language.

Mr. Whiteway: Mr. Speaker, I shall withdraw that. I do not want to be unparliamentary, but I shall prove that what he said was not in accordance with the facts, and let members attach their own definition or colloquial expression to it.

The minister gave us some of these facts this afternoon. Given that 75 per cent of Canadians live in urban centres and that 12 years from now the figure will be 90 per cent, given that most of these people will be concentrated in four major urban centres in Canada, given that 50 per cent of our energy consumption takes place because of intra-city transportation—given those background facts, I should like now to recall June 17, 1974. Hon. members opposite will recognize the occasion immediately. It was in Vancouver during the election campaign when the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) claimed the Liberal government "will pay"—note the word "will"—he did not use the word "may" or "should"—he said the Liberal government "will pay 100 per cent of the cost of new commuter vehicles." Has that been fulfilled?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Whiteway: He also said the Liberal government "will pay 25 per cent of the capital cost of all vehicles purchased." Has that been fulfilled?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Whiteway: He went on to say that financial support "will be made available to encourage Canadian design and engineering." Has that been fulfilled?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Whiteway: He then said that the Liberal government "will offer assistance" and that Canadian industry would be encouraged to develop "off the shelf" standardized systems and equipment. Has that been fulfilled?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Whiteway: Next he promised that the Liberal government "will encourage" urban transit systems. He said that the Liberal government is "committed"—mark that word, Mr. Speaker—is "committed." Now this is what they were com-