

minister responsible for housing swinging in the wind for months, continue to do so. We were also prompted in our efforts today by an unbelievable exhibition from the government House leader when he suggested that, instead of pursuing our democratic right to raise questions in this House, we should resign. Well, we know how long it takes them to call byelections on certain occasions and we have no intention of following the cheap hysterics of the government House leader.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I invite the minister responsible for housing to rise in his place and do the honourable thing and announce an inquiry to get to the bottom of the leaks of information and the lack of direction given to his officials in his department. I suggest the inquiry could also be broadened to encompass the events of today, so that the true facts could be made available to this House.

[Translation]

Mr. Raymond Savard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I should like to get back to the comments made by the minister responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (Mr. Cosgrove) regarding the question raised by the hon. member on November 10, 1981, on the subject of advice given to home owners whose mortgages had come up for renewal. May I point out, Mr. Speaker, that he kept the promise he made earlier in the House and that he has taken a number of measures to help those who, when their mortgages come up for renewal, are hard put to meet their monthly payments because of interest rates. The minister's staff and the minister himself have answered 366 telephone calls, and the minister has answered 193 letters. In many cases, he was able to get lenders to make alternative arrangements for financing. In other cases, he obtained a deferral of interest payments. Often, Mr. Speaker, members of his staff were able to help home owners to get organized by referring them to ombudsmen appointed by some banks to deal with mortgage renewals.

I also wish to say a few words about the hon. members' comments on the secrecy of the budget. Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will agree, I am sure, that to people who are in a difficult situation, it was only natural to wait until the budget was brought down to see if it did not contain some form of assistance. As the hon. member knows, help was in fact announced in this budget. The government has established a Canadian mortgage renewal program under which the government undertakes to help Canadians who are in great need. It is also very encouraging, Mr. Speaker, to see that interest rates have fallen during the last few weeks, because there lies the real answer to solving the problems of home owners. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to give the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis) the assurance that the government has done and will continue to do everything in its power to help home owners who are in great need.

Adjournment Debate

[English]

HUMAN RIGHTS—REPORTED PLAN TO ESTABLISH CIVILIAN INTERNMENT CAMPS. (B) TERMS OF STANDING ORDER PUBLISHED IN "THE CANADA GAZETTE"

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Mr. Speaker, I have always felt that with this Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and his government, one should not listen to what he says, but should watch what he does. On September 10 of this year the *Ottawa Citizen* quoted the Prime Minister as saying—and you understand, Mr. Speaker, that the *Ottawa Citizen* is always very kind to the Prime Minister and quotes him accurately, I am sure—and here I will read what it says:

The record of intolerance in Pacific Canada, in the decades around the turn of the century, was not a proud one. No more exemplary was the decision taken by the federal government, in the heat and fright of World War II, to evacuate Japanese Canadians inland from coastal communities and to deprive so many of their civil rights.

That is what the Prime Minister said.

● (2210)

The Minister of Justice (Mr. Chrétien) during the debate on the Constitution, justifying the provision of the charter of rights for Canada on February 17 said in defence of that charter, and I quote from page 7374 of *Hansard*:

I want to examine the charter both in terms of what it holds out for tomorrow and also in terms of how it fits into the stream of Canadian history. While our history is one in which we can take pride, it is not without its stains. Some of these were brought out very clearly during the hearing by the joint committee of testimony from representatives of our native people, of the National Association of Japanese-Canadians, Francophone groups outside of Quebec, of Anglophone groups in Quebec, of the National Black Coalition, of women's groups, of the handicapped.

Part of our task is to recognize the injustice of the past, to say "never again shall rights be trampled upon". Part of our task is to ensure that the enormous evolution in our values is reflected in our Constitution. That is what we are doing today. We are building a modern Canada for tomorrow.

That is what the Minister of Justice said on February 17. At the same time in cabinet, and I emphasize that, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice, the Solicitor General (Mr. Kaplan) and other cabinet ministers were formulating Privy Council Document No. 1305 which was Gazetted on June 10. I quote as follows from that document, Schedule, Part II, under the powers assigned to the Solicitor General:

6. Establish, administer and operate civilian internment camps.

7. Facilitate the selective reduction and transfer of prison populations to provide for the establishment of civilian internment camps.

On the one hand the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice say never again. At the same time they are providing powers for themselves to establish civilian internment camps. "Never again shall rights be trampled upon."

The question arises, if never again, why does the cabinet make provision for civilian internment camps? I think it is safe to say there is a truism about politics. Governments do not make provision for powers they do not plan to use. Does the government plan to use the provisions in this act? Of course it does. The question is who will be the candidates? Who will be in those civilian internment camps?