

recognize the importance of having a definable, responsible and accountable management category. I am just as interested, as the hon. member is, and all members on this side of the House, in ensuring that the size of the bureaucracy does not mushroom through this very important exercise in management accountability.

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

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### PRIVILEGE

MR. FULTON—ALLEGED MISLEADING MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

**Madam Speaker:** Would the hon. Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. LeBlanc) like to revive the question of privilege which was raised yesterday by the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton)?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** With your permission, Madam Speaker, I would like to say, first, that I just became acquainted with the point raised by the hon. member for Skeena. I would also like to check the record very carefully and, of course, give my colleague, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Munro) a chance to do so. He is absent at this time. With your permission, Madam Speaker, perhaps we can put this off until Monday or Tuesday next. I believe both of us will be here on Monday.

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### POINT OF ORDER

MR. CLARK—INCREASE IN PRICE OF GASOLINE

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order to simply correct a figure which I gave earlier in the course of the question period. In fact, the price of gasoline at the pump has gone up, on average, 32 cents a gallon in 1980. That price, of course, is still rising.

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### PRIVILEGE

MR. STEVENS—STATEMENT BY MR. GRAY

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Madam Speaker, as you know, I indicated last Friday that I would like to raise a question of privilege at the earliest possible opportunity. Subsequently, on Monday, my colleague, the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) tabled a formal motion which I would like to move with respect to my question of privilege.

I first intended to proceed with my question of privilege today but I see that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gray) is not in his seat. Unless there is some indication that he will be here later, perhaps I could defer my

### Point of Order—Miss MacDonald

argument. But before deferring it I would like to indicate, at least, that if there is any confusion concerning the motion, the thrust that I will be making—and I give this to you, if you like, in the form of a new notice—is that the minister misled the House a week ago Friday by indicating in his answer that the negotiations with Massey-Ferguson were still under active review and that he had no statement to make at that time.

Subsequently, I will be showing in the course of my argument—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. That is sufficient notice to the Chair of the kind of question of privilege the hon. member intends to rise on. If he wishes to defer until such time as the minister is here, that is quite acceptable.

**Mr. Stevens:** Madam Speaker, in fairness to the minister and the other three ministers involved, I want to indicate the thrust of my argument in order that it will be recorded in *Hansard* in a formal way they will not be able to say I have caught them off guard.

Various cabinet meetings have been held and I want to disclose what was decided at those meetings. The four ministers involved are the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Johnston), the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Minister of State for Economic Development, Mr. Olson, and the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen). I think it is important that they come prepared, if you like. A press release was prepared between the hours of 1 and 1.30 Friday morning concerning this matter. This is what I hope they will be willing to respond to when we get into the substantive argument which I will be making, hopefully, on Monday.

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### POINT OF ORDER

MISS MACDONALD—ACTIVITIES OF BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Earlier this week, on February 11, in answer to questions in the House, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacGuigan) indicated that he would be prepared to make a report to the House by the end of the week with respect to his investigation of the alleged activities—as he said, the “totally unacceptable” activities—of the British High Commissioner. I would like to ask, in light of the minister having made that commitment to the House earlier, if he is now prepared to do so, particularly in light of the remarks of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) at his press conference yesterday.

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I did not make a commitment to the House. What I said was that I hoped to be able to do so by the end of the week. In fact, I am ready for a question on that subject today, and if Madam Speaker—

**Mr. Clark:** You said a statement.