

*Business of the House*

[Translation]

**PRIVILEGE****CORRECTION OF STATEMENT RESPECTING GOVERNMENT CONTRACT**

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau):** Mr. Speaker, during question period, the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. McInnes) said here in the House that I was the author of a contract concluded between the Government of Canada and the St. John company.

I think the Minister was seriously mistaken, and I would ask him to withdraw what he said immediately, because I never was the Minister responsible for Supply and Services Canada.

[English]

**Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, I think my message was that this Government did not draw up this contract.

**Mr. Gauthier:** You said Papineau.

**Mr. McInnes:** It was the Liberal Government that did so, and the Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet), who then was the Minister from Quebec, was very much involved in that contract.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is clear that this is a dispute as to the facts. However, it is not a question of privilege.

**Mr. Rossi:** Check the "blues".

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**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE****WEEKLY STATEMENT**

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, even though the Government House Leader, myself and the NDP House Leader will be having a meeting later this afternoon, which I presume will involve discussions about business of the House, I thought I should ask the Government House Leader formally if he will make a statement on the business of the House today because this is the customary time to do so.

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I was trying to keep the meeting this afternoon a secret but since it is now public, I will say that its purpose is to discuss business generally and also to discuss various items of mutual interest and concern to the Parties.

I am quite happy to announce the sequence of business. We have now entered into second reading stage of Bill C-80, an Act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act. I propose to carry on with that today and, hopefully, we will make progress.

Tomorrow is the first allotted day of this trimester. If, by chance, we do not complete second reading stage of Bill C-80 today, we will continue to deal with it next Monday, Tuesday

and into next week. However, I am confident that we will complete second reading stage of this legislation. Therefore, Bill C-62, an Act respecting employment equity, and Bill C-42, an Act to dissolve Canagrex, will be the back-up Bills to Bill C-80.

As usual, I will keep in touch with the Opposition House Leaders and report to the House if there is any change in the order of business that has been announced.

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I have one question for the Government House Leader which I believe is important for the record. Could he indicate whether it is still the intention of the Government to proceed with the collective bargaining legislation for the House of Commons employees and if the Government intends to proceed with that before the Christmas break?

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, I take that as a representation by the Hon. Member he wants me to introduce that legislation so it can be passed. On the basis that it is a representation of support from the NDP, I am encouraged to bring it forward at an early date.

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[English]

**COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE****STRIKING COMMITTEE—NINTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**Mr. Paul Dick (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the ninth report of the Striking Committee in both official languages.

[Editor's Note: For above-mentioned report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGES POLICY AND PROGRAMS—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO SECOND REPORT OF STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE**

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 70(16), I have the honour to lay upon the table two copies, in both official languages, of the Government's comprehensive response to the second report of the Standing Joint Committee on Official Languages Policy and Program.