

matter, the publication of libel. It has to do with remarks made by the Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria). At page 5322 of *Hansard* of Monday, June 3 he addressed himself to me and members of my family. I want to read the offensive passage, Mr. Speaker. He said:

The Minister's family has one member who is a prominent businessman, and from whom Revenue Canada is now claiming \$380,000.

There is not a word of truth in that, Mr. Speaker. It is not claiming \$380,000. He went on to say:

Both of the Minister's sons are legal agents for the Department of Justice, courtesy of their father, and have as their responsibilities the task of acting on behalf of Revenue Canada.

That is also untrue. Only one of the sons was a legal agent for Revenue Canada. He went on to say:

The question is: will the Minister's sons, who were named as federal legal agents by their father, act to prosecute the uncle, who is their father's brother, and who owes the Government of Canada \$380,000?

That is false in its entirety,, Mr. Speaker. My brother, who is Andrew C. Crosbie, does not owe the Government of Canada \$380,000 or any amount in connection with his income tax or otherwise. However, it was totally irrelevant to the debate in any event. The Hon. Member slandered someone who is not in the House in a manner that has nothing to do with the House and on a matter with which he has nothing to do.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Could the Minister tell me what the question of privilege is, please?

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, if Members of the House can libel whom they like in this connection, and draw the inference that some kind of deal is in place so that a son of mine would not be taking any action against the brother who owes \$380,000, the whole thing is a shabby aspersion on myself, my sons, and a false allegation against my brother.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that I am entitled to set the record straight because this has been repeated on the radio and in the news in St. John's, Newfoundland. It interferes with him in his capacity to enter into business arrangements because people now feel that he owes \$380,000 to the Department of National Revenue.

Mr. Speaker: I must interrupt the Hon. Minister one more time. Could the Hon. Minister please tell me what his question of privilege is?

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): He has none.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege is that my actions as a Minister and Member of the House have been reflected upon. The suggestion is that I will take some action which will relieve my brother from having to pay the \$380,000 allegedly owed in income tax. Surely that is a breach of privilege. Mr. Speaker, I have a letter from the chartered accountants of my brother, Andrew C. Crosbie, who advised me—

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Order.

Privilege—Mr. Crosbie

Mr. Axworthy: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order, please! The Minister is introducing into the record his view of a set of facts and is indicating that in his view the facts that were quoted earlier were not correct. That, I take it, is his right in one sense. However, I must ask the Minister to tell me quickly what question of privilege he is raising, because he has not raised one as yet.

Mr. Crosbie: The question of privilege is that the provisions of the Privacy Act with respect to Andrew C. Crosbie have been violated. The principles of the Income Tax Act have been violated because there is a claim against Andrew C. Crosbie in connection with a firm called Crosbie Offshore Services Limited and a question of payroll source deductions in his position as a director. A letter was sent—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Crosbie: —to him from Revenue Canada—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

Mr. Crosbie: —on April 10, 1985, a private letter—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the Hon. Minister please take his seat?

Some Hon. Members: Order, order.

Mr. Speaker: I will give the Minister one more opportunity.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Why? There is no question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Minister will please immediately come to the question of how his privileges, as a Member of the House of Commons, have been breached. There is no other question that can be raised as a question of privilege.

Mr. Crosbie: Well, Mr. Speaker, my privilege as a Member of the House has been breached because the Member has tried to cast aspersions on my conduct as a Minister by relating false information to the House about my brother and the Department of National Revenue. And, Mr. Speaker, we are entitled to know where he got his information, if he got the information, and he must be prepared to back up that information—

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Crosbie: —and put his seat on the line, or else there is no one in the country who is safe.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: That's where the question of privilege comes in.