

*Privilege*

I would also say that we in the Parliament of Canada spend millions of dollars a year advocating that women go to these shelters. Are we suggesting that they go to places that are not secure?

**Mr. Murphy:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I hate to intervene in the member's question of privilege, but I have not heard anything yet that indicates a question of privilege. It seems to be a clarification of his own role rather than anything that happened in this House.

With regard to the member for New Westminster—Burnaby, she is not able to be here today, at least at this time of the day. It was one of his own colleagues who pointed out to us late last night during the votes that she was not feeling well. She will not be here for a while this morning.

However, I did not get up on that particular point. I got up on the fact that what the member for Broadview—Greenwood was talking about had nothing to do with a question of privilege. If he is talking about his own situation, that is a different issue and perhaps he wants to get up at some other time.

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps I can try to be of assistance to members.

The hon. member for Broadview—Greenwood raised this matter yesterday. I do not think I am trespassing by saying that he suggested to me earlier this morning he would want to raise it.

I understand that the office of the hon. member for New Westminster—Burnaby was notified that the hon. member wished to proceed at this point. It may well be that it would be appropriate to hear the hon. member for New Westminster—Burnaby at some point when it is convenient.

• (1020)

The point the hon. member for Churchill makes I think is sound. There may or may not be a complaint here. I have not heard all of it, but I think the point that the hon. member for Churchill makes is reasonable. As this is a question of privilege, I know the hon. member would want to address it from the point of view of privilege and not stray into debate.

I accept the intervention of our hon. friend. I am sure that the hon. member for Broadview—Greenwood will wrap up his argument. At that point, depending on what

I have heard, I may ask the hon. member at least to have the opportunity to address it further if that is necessary.

**Mr. Mills:** Mr. Speaker, I will wrap up. Basically I want to make the point that at no time when I distributed this piece, *Women's Country*, with addresses attached was there any intent to do malicious damage.

My point of privilege is quite specific. When another member in this House accuses another member of putting the lives of women and children in danger, it makes it very difficult and impedes us in our work as members of Parliament. That is the simple point.

I have every intention of continuing to try to be constructive in advancing this issue which is of concern to each and every member of this House, but I do not think I will have any effect at all if my constituents believe that the actions I take are putting the lives of people in danger.

**Mr. Patrick Boyer (Etobicoke—Lakeshore):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad the member has raised this matter in the House this morning as a point of privilege because it relates to the use of the office of a member of Parliament to distribute information and the impact that can have on the general public and indeed on other members of Parliament.

Because this information was received in my own constituency, which is part of the same metropolitan community shared by the member who has just spoken, there was a lot of concern raised in my constituency. I think it is helpful the member has clarified his intentions as to what he was seeking to do.

Clearly a dilemma has been raised. On one hand this member, as many of us do in the course of fulfilling our public office, would want to let women know where the shelters are and how to contact them. The dilemma comes from the fact, on the other hand, that in many instances—in fact in most instances—these are safe houses and information generally out and about as to where they are can create very serious problems for those who are seeking refuge there.

In the case of the Etobicoke—Lakeshore constituency where Women's Habitat is located and for years has been providing this needed and unfortunately necessary service to women and children, there was great consternation that an address and a location that they tried to keep not broadly known was in fact revealed in this way.