

**Mr. Deans:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. As I understand it, the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray) is asking for permission to enter into this discussion at a later date. If that is what he is seeking, then I will not give unanimous consent. However, if the Speaker is intent on reopening the question for further discussion now and will allow comments to be made by those who wish to comment now, and then reserving to some later date in order to allow the Hon. Member—who has been accused in his absence and with the full knowledge that he would not be here by the Hon. Member who moved the motion—

**Mr. Nunziata:** I gave him notice.

**Mr. Deans:**—then, perhaps, we will consent—

**Mr. Speaker:** This is the dilemma of dealing with questions of privilege with regard to parliamentary privilege because it is beginning to get personal. I therefore suggest, as I suggested yesterday—without asking the Hon. Member to withdraw his comments at the time, so I will therefore not ask the Hon. Member to withdraw his comments at this time—that this is not the way to deal with this matter.

I am now left in a quandary. It is clear, I hope, what my intention was when I said I would reserve. I would reserve to decide myself whether it was appropriate to allow the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) to speak to the issue, and to make my own ruling. I did not indicate I was reserving to allow other Hon. Members to participate. I do not yet know in my mind whether it is reasonable to allow the Hon. Member for Burnaby to make a statement later. That I have to decide as well.

I therefore seek the consent of the House to allow the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray)—

**Mr. Rodriguez:** No!

**Some Hon. Members:** No!

**Ms. Copps:** It's an NDP gag!

**Mr. Gauthier:** There is no democracy there!

**Mr. Speaker:** I have sought the consent of the House to hear the Hon. Member for Windsor West. I find no such consent.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Deans:** If you want to put your muck raker up, put him up. Any time he wants to rise on debate, we will debate it!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. About two weeks ago Wednesday became Tuesday. This week Wednesday has become Friday! With great respect to Hon. Members, shall we just proceed with House business?

*Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*  
**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[*Translation*]

**CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

BUDGETARY CUTBACKS—NECESSITY FOR CONSULTATION  
PROCESS

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, when my colleague the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) announced his strategy for putting the Government's fiscal house in order, he asked all Government agencies to do their share to achieve the proposed budgetary cutbacks. As a result, the CBC has had to cut back its proposed budget estimates for 1985-86 by \$75 million. This reduction represents 7.5 per cent of the total expenditures of the CBC.

Since there was a risk that this administrative obligation would affect the CBC's general strategy and its long-term operations, I decided, in agreement with the President of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, that a consultation process was necessary.

[*English*]

Mr. Juneau supported this process and on November 5 he stated in a letter to me, and I quote:

It was agreed that if such reductions were made, important basic corporation strategies would be affected, and therefore it would be necessary that consultations take place between the corporation and yourself on the implementation of these reductions.

In his letter, Mr. Juneau pointed out that such consultations could take place while respecting the discrete responsibilities of the Minister and the corporation.

[*Translation*]

I am happy to inform the House that this emphasis on consultation has produced positive results thanks to the co-operation of the President of the CBC and his senior officials, who worked together with my special consultants, Mr. Gould, Mr. Audley and Mr. Paquin, all of whom were realistic in their approach and gave full consideration to the Corporation's creative resources, both from the regional and the network point of view.

Mr. Juneau has informed me of the main points of this strategy and has asked me to approve amendments to the pension plan, so as to open the possibility of early retirement for CBC employees and thus minimize the loss of jobs. I am happy to inform the House that I have given my approval for these amendments.

[*English*]

It is a pleasure to inform the House that my consultations with Mr. Juneau have been conducted in a spirit of co-operation and with a shared concern for the well-being of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and its excellent service to Canadians.