

Privilege

He will know the longstanding constitutional tradition that cabinet confidences cannot be released for good and valid reasons he will understand. Indeed, such is the strength of that position that Beauchesne's makes it very clear it is out of order to ask for the production of such documents. I refer the hon. member to Beauchesne's 6th edition, citation 446, section 3:

Minister's correspondence of a personal nature, or dealing with constituency of general political matters, should not be identified with government papers and therefore should not be subject to production in the House.

Beauchesne's covers it quite well. I want also to make the point that the documents that were tabled, plus those that are available at Industry, Science and Technology, will enable anybody to examine the total history of this project. There really is no relevant information missing that would prevent detailed analysis in order for the hon. member or anybody else to reach whatever conclusion they might want to.

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PRIVILEGE

COMMENTS OF MEMBER FOR NEW WESTMINSTER—BURNABY

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, both you and the majority of members of this House of Commons will know that since I was first elected three and a half years ago, one of the issues I have brought to the floor of this House and I raise at every opportunity, both within this House and in the Canadian community at large, is the issue of violence against women.

Earlier today, the member for Broadview—Greenwood told this House that I made statements that imputed his motives and impeded him in his work as a member of Parliament. The record will show that is simply not the case. At no point in my statement yesterday did I impute motives to the member or say that he acted out of any malicious intent.

What he did in publishing the addresses of shelters for battered women in the Toronto area was certainly wrong, but I never said or implied that he acted out of an intent to endanger lives. I want to quote from what I said: "Shelters for battered women give out their phone numbers but not their addresses because it would endan-

ger the lives of women and children". The member published and distributed shelter addresses without consulting them. This is true. Abusive men have followed and killed their partners and have also killed shelter workers in transition homes. This is true. The member said that millions of dollars were being spent on shelters and that we are advocating that women go to places that are not secure.

The alternative is staying in an abusive situation. Shelters are not secure when abusive men find out where they are. The member said the addresses were already public information. But there is a difference between finding the addresses at the public library after research and circulating them to thousands of people.

Most organizations on the list do not publicly give out their addresses. They are trying to erase public records of their addresses and publish only their phone numbers.

The member has actually missed the point of my statement which was, as I clearly stated, to urge all members of Parliament to consult with women's groups in their ridings before sending out information on violence against women. The member's troubles over this matter could have been avoided had he contacted the groups he listed beforehand.

I maintain my recommendation to all members of this House to consult with groups in their ridings as to what is an appropriate tool for education on this matter and what to enclose with it in terms of support systems available in their communities for survivors of violence.

Not all members have the experience of working in a shelter for battered women. I understand they are therefore unaware of the effects some of their actions may have on those women and children. But a review of my statement will show no inaccuracies whatsoever.

I had hoped that my statement would be taken in a constructive manner by all members of Parliament. Instead, I find that the member seems to not have learned from that.

Violence against women is an extremely important issue to me and to many members in this House. It is my responsibility to urge members to avoid the situation the member for Broadview—Greenwood put himself into for the sake of abused women and children in all our ridings across Canada.