

*Indian Affairs*

Mr. Speaker, perhaps I may give the Hon. Member the assurance that we will do everything we can to meet his request as soon as possible.

[English]

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston):** I do not know what shenanigans are going on here this afternoon, Mr. Speaker. We have a Member bringing a motion for the production of documents, a Conservative Member of Parliament, who speaks for ten minutes and alleges criminal activity and corruption against a member of the public and an Indian band, the Westbank Band in British Columbia, and then right after the Member speaks the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister stands up and says that he is going to produce the documents in the normal course.

It is obvious to all those who are watching that the Conservative Party is trying to use Private Member's hour in order to allow the Private Member to make statements, to attack another Canadian who is presumed innocent until proven guilty, to put those statements on the record, when that Member will not make the statements outside the House, when that particular Member knows that he is named as a defendant in a lawsuit and perhaps is trying to use this opportunity to influence a court of law. He is trying to put on the record allegations that are quite properly put before the court of law.

The Member knew, and the Government knew, that there have been several federal Government reports on this particular matter. I would like to point out and stress that the Liberal Party does not object to the production of the documents or an investigation into this matter. Very serious allegations have been made, and we believe it is important and incumbent upon officials to conduct a thorough investigation in view of the allegations that have been made.

Now, the Member who moved the motion knew that this matter is presently before the RCMP. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police have been asked to investigate. They are conducting an investigation, and having full knowledge of that fact, the Conservative Party today has conspired to allow this Member to abuse his parliamentary immunity, his privileges, in order to malign individuals.

It was also quite clear and obvious that the Indian Affairs Ministers had said last week or the week before, that the three reports in question were before the RCMP. It was also indicated that the Justice Minister (Mr. Crosbie) was considering holding a public inquiry into this matter. If that is the case, and this Government is already intending to hold the public inquiry pursuant to the Public Inquiries Act, why then are we going through this process here today? The documents should either go to the RCMP, the police, or to the person or judge who is conducting the inquiry. Why does the Conservative Government find it necessary to stand up, using the shield of parliamentary immunity, to allege very serious wrongdoings against individuals?

• (1620)

**Mr. Greenaway:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I can answer that question very quickly. We cannot get the RCMP to do it because they cannot get a warrant.

**Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** That is not a point of order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Order, please. I cannot hear the Hon. Member. The Hon. Member for Cariboo—Chilcotin (Mr. Greenaway) has the floor. I would like to hear his point of order.

**Mr. Greenaway:** Mr. Speaker, the reason the RCMP cannot move is that they need a judicial inquiry so that they can subpoena evidence and hear witnesses. That is the problem.

**Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would just like you to recognize that what the Hon. Member is trying to do is simply to interrupt my colleague and bring new arguments into the debate. It is no point of order.

**Mr. Greenaway:** What is new about that?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Perhaps I might explain to the Hon. Member for Saint-Jacques (Mr. Guilbault) that I was reading a document to prepare myself for the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata). I tried to hear whether it was a point of order. It was not a point of order, neither was that raised by the Hon. Member. Therefore, we are on debate and I would like to recognize the Hon. Member for York South—Weston.

**Mr. Nunziata:** Mr. Speaker, the Member made some very serious allegations on April 15, at the committee. First, he alleged that Mr. Paul Tellier, who was Deputy Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development from 1979 to 1982, and is now a Clerk of the Privy Council, was responsible for criminal activity and for covering up the mismanagement of Government funds. The Member also alleged attempted murder.

I want to quote from that particular committee meeting. The Member, using his parliamentary immunity, stated:

Gentlemen, I have recently come into possession of a part of a secret internal document, which I have here this morning if you wish to see it, on transactions of the Westbank Band and the role played by DIAND. It is a sad tale of mismanagement of government funds, corruption, fraud, attempted murder, extortion and worst of all, a coverup by departmental officials up to the level of deputy minister.

I find that the height of irresponsibility, when a Member of this House—

**Mr. Lewis:** You are in a position to know it.

**Mr. Nunziata:**—an experienced Member of the House—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Order, please. I want the Hon. Member to know that he should not bring into the House a reading from a committee hearing. That should not be done. I will let him proceed because he is a new Member, but he has been here almost two years and he should begin to know that that is not done. I will let him continue in the time he has left.