

Mr. Prud'homme: Does the President of the CBC still enjoy the full confidence of the Government in carrying out his important duties and responsibilities?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I indicated some weeks ago—and I think it was in response to a question from my hon. friend—the high regard the Government has for the President of the CBC. That has not changed.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

SOUTH AFRICA—ABOLITION OF APARTHEID ADVOCATED BY BISHOP TUTU

Mr. Reg Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In light of Bishop Tutu's visit and representations on behalf of his people, and in view of historical Progressive Conservative advocacy of human rights in South Africa—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stackhouse: Oh, yes! It goes back to the Diefenbaker Government.

What consideration is being given to increasing Canadian pressure on South Africa to abolish apartheid?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I was honoured, as we all were yesterday, by the presence of Bishop Tutu in the House. I had the privilege of a private meeting with him wherein he gave me the benefit of his views. I indicated to him how helpful they would be to the new Government as we get into a foreign policy review. Of course the question of our relationship with South Africa will be very carefully re-examined.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: I am in receipt of a question of privilege which I am required to deal with at this time. The Hon. Member for Burnaby has submitted to me a question of privilege. Is the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition rising on a question of privilege or—

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, at the time I stood up it was before twelve o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: I have several clocks. That is one of the problems which Speakers have always had. This clock had actually struck exactly 12, which is why I rose to accept the question of privilege.

The Hon. Member for Burnaby on a question of privilege.

● (1200)

Business of the House

PRIVILEGE

RETRACTION OF REMARKS IN STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 3, at a meeting of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, I made public a confidential U.S. document raising very serious questions about activities of the CIA and the U.S. intelligence community, directed against Canada in the mid-1970s. The CIA document in question ordered the intelligence community to obtain detailed information about Petro-Canada, including the possible acquisition of a United States oil company.

During the Monday meeting of the Justice Committee, I named two senior individuals at Petro-Canada as having possibly been tasked to obtain confidential information for the CIA. In naming these individuals, I was relying upon a confidential source of information and I availed myself of parliamentary immunity in the process.

While the tradition of parliamentary immunity is a long and important one, in retrospect I regret that I used my immunity to name these individuals. I have written to both men to express unreservedly my regret for having publicly named them in the Justice Committee.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I wish at this time to issue a complete and unequivocal retraction of the allegations I made and unreservedly apologize to the two individuals involved, Mr. Frederick Rayer and Mr. Robert Foulkes, for the hardship that this has undoubtedly caused them.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORT

REDUCTION IN POSTAL SERVICE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petition presented by the Hon. Member for Carleton-Charlotte (Mr. McCain) on Thursday, December 20, 1984, meets the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of State (Government House Leader)): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of order with respect to the business of the House.

We have had the usual amicable and fruitful consultation between House Leaders which has allowed us to determine the business, I believe, by consensus and consent, at least until the end of today.

Therefore, I wish now to present to Your Honour and to the House a draft order of the business of the House for today. I believe you will find that there will be a predisposition to give