

Karen Ridd who appeared before the Parliamentary Committee on External Affairs this morning confirmed this, and said that while she is now back in Canada, she still receives death threats.

What is the Prime Minister going to do in light of all of this evidence that shows certainly the Canadian government should not continue aid to this government?

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, if my hon. friend is referring to the delegation that is visiting at the request of the government of El Salvador, there are at least two meetings with the government that will be held with the Acting Under Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Raymond Chretien, and the Acting Vice President of CIDA for Latin America. The visit provides them with the unique opportunity of conveying the position of the Government of Canada to them, receiving their point of view. After these meetings, the government looks forward to receiving specific recommendations from the Under Secretary of State, Mr. Raymond Chretien, in whom we have great confidence.

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• (1500)

HOUSING

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Housing. This government has cited Project Haven as an example of action it is taking to combat violence against women. Well, some action.

The government promised over 18 months ago that within four years it would provide shelter for 500 more battered women each day. To date, a year and a half later, there are 22 more shelter beds in all of Canada.

Will the minister tell us when this government will take concrete action to lessen violence against women and keep his and his government's promise to battered women?

Hon. Alan Redway (Minister of State (Housing)): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member is aware, the government has made a commitment under Project Haven to provide the capital funds for shelter beds for victims of violence: women and children.

Privilege

Some \$22 million was committed to be put in place over a period of time. Proposal calls have been put out for that. A number of those proposals have been accepted and put in place. Others are in the process of being put in place. Some of the provincial governments involved have raised concerns with respect to providing the maintenance funds to look after those shelters once they are put in place, and that has been a factor which has delayed the process.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member. I would have preferred to go on longer but we are out of time. The hon. Minister of Justice.

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PRIVILEGE

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. There have been discussions among the House leaders with respect to the most appropriate method of dealing with communications which have been received from all parties regarding testimony given before the Standing Committee on Justice and the Solicitor General relating to police investigations of certain members. Those discussions have included yourself and officers of the House.

This is a matter of grave concern to all of us as members of Parliament and we have searched long and hard for an appropriate solution. We have arrived at a two-part solution which will address the current situation and assist the House and its members in the future.

First, I will propose a motion to be jointly moved and seconded by myself; the member for Windsor West, the Official Opposition House leader; and the member for Kamloops, the New Democratic Party House leader to deal with the request for a question of privilege raised by members from all three Parties. The motion will read as follows:

That the Standing Committee on Elections, Privileges, Procedure and Private Members' Business be empowered to study the rights, immunities and privileges of members of the House of Commons.

We also feel that it is appropriate to review our current practices and therefore following the passage of the motion which I just suggested I would move the following motion, again jointly moved and seconded by myself;