

Petitions

the Hon. Members not to invite me or push me too far to assist the KGB in making that assessment.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Epp: They do not trust you, Bob.

PARLIAMENT'S RIGHT TO KNOW

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): We have to give the Minister some credit for imagination. First, he was hiding behind the courts of Great Britain. Now he is hiding behind the KGB.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: This House of Commons has a right to know what deals were made by the Government of Canada with a Canadian citizen, a Canadian resident who has just been convicted of spying by courts in the United Kingdom. Will the Minister give a complete statement on motions to this House of Commons?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, when the Hon. Member says that the House has a right to know what deals, I have answered that question. I have indicated that there were no deals.

Miss MacDonald: That is not what you said before.

Mr. Kaplan: I have explained the basis on which Mr. Hambleton gave his information, and I would also remind the House that that information was shared with the British Security Service—

Miss MacDonald: You said there was a deal.

Mr. Kaplan: —with MI-5, and it was an important contributing factor to the investigation and the prosecution which took place in Great Britain.

I am prepared to answer other questions that were asked to the greatest extent possible to assist the House in understanding fully the circumstances under which the Security Service dealt with Mr. Hambleton; the basis on which decisions were made by the Department of Justice; advice given by the Minister of Justice; but beyond that I do not know how I could be more forthcoming about it.

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PETITIONS

TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has laid upon the Table reports of the Clerk of Petitions stating that he has examined the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Monday, December 6, 1982 and found that the petitions meet the requirements of the Standing Order as to form.

POINT OF ORDER

MR. MURPHY—S.O. 43 MOTION

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Madam Speaker, I wish to raise a point of Order on a statement you made in the House yesterday. Yesterday I was raising a motion under Standing Order 43 with regard to large numbers of Conservative Members being absent on a number of occasions. On each of those occasions a large number of Conservatives were absent, thereby allowing the Liberal Government to stay in power. You ruled that—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Precisely, that statement I made in the House yesterday was a ruling. Therefore, the Hon. Member should know that he may not comment on a ruling. That ruling is quite consistent with rulings made by my predecessors and I maintain that ruling; and I would ask the Hon. Member not to comment on it.

• (1510)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

INCOME TAX

AMENDMENTS TO STATUTE LAW

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (for the Minister of Finance), pursuant to Standing Order 60(11), moved for leave to introduce Bill C-139, an Act to amend the statute law relating to income tax (No. 2).

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 4,083 and 4,370.

[Text]

POSTAL BOXES

Question No. 4,083—**Mr. Herbert:**

What is the approximate average cost of a letter-size postal delivery box as installed in Post Office lobbies and what is the average life of such postal boxes?

Mr. David Berger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I am informed by the Canada Post Corporation as follows: average cost: \$9.50 each, average life: 20 to 50 years of service.