

*Privilege—Mr. Parker*

hon. member for Athabasca is untrue. I have never refused to meet the Indian chiefs. In fact, I talked to them Thursday afternoon and the hon. member was there. I had twenty minutes with them at the Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs where a kind of filibuster was organized.

The Indian chiefs of the Atlantic provinces arrived in Ottawa on Thursday, after sending me a telegram late Monday. It was the first time I ever heard of their visit and I answered right away, indicating that unfortunately on Thursday my schedule was extremely full and that I preferred that our representatives meet first to make a good analysis of the question and, of course, I assured them that I would meet with them personally afterward. I proposed to go to the maritimes myself instead of having them come to Ottawa, at a cost of some \$9,000 since it is the most elementary courtesy from a minister to her Canadian constituents. I wanted to make that clear.

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has raised by way of a question of privilege a complaint that has come to his attention from a body which, of course, is not a party in the House. I would have very grave doubts about the procedural basis for this matter. I should think it would require some sort of conduct on the part of a member which would in some way bring the whole House of Commons into disrepute. If it is simply a matter of some sensibility on the part of any group, whether or not that sensibility is well founded—and I am not commenting on the sensibility of that group as that is not the point—I have to deal with the matter only on a procedural ground.

Upon reflection it may be, since the hon. member has raised the point, that the member or parliamentary secretary involved may want to examine what has taken place and consider whether any statement, either here in the House or privately to the group involved, may be in order or appropriate. But on procedural grounds it would appear to me that it would be a great extension of a question of privilege as we understand it to bring this matter within the bounds of a question of privilege. I will not make that final determination until there has been an opportunity for a response by the parliamentary secretary.

MR. PARKER—REPLY OF MINISTER DURING QUESTION PERIOD

**Mr. Rob Parker (Eglinton):** Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege relates to a remark by the Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Small Business) (Mr. Abbott) during the question period. I do not have the exact quote but I believe he referred to the theft of documents from his office by members opposite, unspecified. I am very new in this chamber, but it seems to me that kind of accusation unfairly impugns the reputation and practices of members on this side of the House. I would ask that the minister either clarify his remark, make a specific charge if he has one in mind, or withdraw the remark entirely.

[*Miss Bégin.*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Like the hon. member, I will have to examine the record. I did not have the impression that what the minister said at the time was unparliamentary in nature, but again I will look at the record to determine whether it was or not.

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## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

### PUBLIC SERVICE

#### TABLETING OF CLASSIFICATION AUDIT REPORT

**Hon. Judd Buchanan (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), I wish to table, in both official languages, a report on the classification audit in the national capital area and the non-national capital area.

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[*Translation*]

### JUDGES ACT

#### MEASURE TO GRANT IMMEDIATE ANNUITY TO JUSTICE MORAND

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Justice)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-33, to authorize the granting of an immediate annuity to the Honourable Mr. Justice Donald Raymond Morand.

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

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[*English*]

### QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. Roger Young (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 178, 258 and 552.

[*Text*]

#### CLASSIFICATION STAMP OR SEAL

Question No. 178—**Mr. Cossitt:**

With reference to the answer to Question No. 1,853 of the Third Session of the 30th Parliament which states in part: "Clerks, typists, stenographers, secretaries may use any classification stamp or seal provided they have been properly cleared and are acting under the direction of a person authorized to classify information", what are the names of all persons in each department who have authorization to give such directions to staff members regarding classification of documents as "top secret", "secret", "confidential", "most secret", etc.?