

which the Hon. Member wants to raise in the House of Commons so that he can get on evening TV.

Mr. Broadbent: So do you, with that answer.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

STATEMENT MADE BY MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Yesterday we heard the Minister of Justice tell the House and the country that, to use his own words, "his brother Andrew was innocent and didn't owe the Government one red cent", in connection with claims of which National Revenue has given his brother notice. Does the Prime Minister consider it proper and acceptable for the Minister of Justice to take sides like that?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am very reluctant, not knowing anything about the case, to comment on anything which might become the subject of litigation at a future date. I understood yesterday's exchange to be much more related to an accusation which had been raised by a Liberal Member of Parliament, which impugned a member of the Minister's family, about which he, as a Member of Parliament, attempted to set the record straight. That was my understanding.

PROCLAMATION OF BROTHER'S INNOCENCE

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, that question may be resolved in other proceedings which will take place in the House, but what the Prime Minister has a responsibility for is his Minister of Justice taking sides in any matter before the courts.

An Hon. Member: Oh, come on.

Mr. Kaplan: The Prime Minister has indicated that he himself won't be taking sides because he does not know the facts. But does he think it is proper for the Minister of Justice to stand here, or in the hall outside, and influence, or attempt to influence the way things may develop, by proclaiming his brother's innocence? Is that a proper course to follow for the Minister of Justice of this country?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, does the Hon. Member feel that it is improper for an Hon. Member from any part of the House to rise—

An Hon. Member: He's a Minister, come on.

Mr. Mulroney: —or a Minister—and attempt to deal objectively with an allegation—

Mr. Nunziata: Objectively? He was ranting and raving.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Oral Questions

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, I will be careful, because I know how offended the Hon. Member for York South-Weston is by ranting and raving.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: But that was my understanding of it. I would, quite frankly, in the presence of a loose allegation of that kind, defend with vigour the right of my hon. friend, if that kind of accusation was made against a member of his family, to rise and have it clarified.

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● (1440)

THE BUDGET

EFFECT ON ATLANTIC PROVINCES

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for Bay Street, the Minister of Finance. He will know that over the last number of days it has become clear that any advice the Minister received from Atlantic Canada prior to the Budget was thrown overboard on May 23. The Budget is very clearly biased against Atlantic Canada. Not only does it pick on those who are most vulnerable, the seniors, it also picks on the most vulnerable region, Atlantic Canada. Is the Minister of Finance prepared to stand in his place today and defend a Budget which will short circuit economic development in Atlantic Canada?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Budget took very much into account the interests and concerns of Atlantic Canada. I am sure the Hon. Member would be quite interested in the comments made concerning the Liberal task force down there: "There is very little spontaneity in the meetings. The politicians sitting at the head table could not resist the opportunity to make speeches and dominate the proceedings". This is because, as the Hon. Member knows, there were no other people at the meeting except the politicians and the media.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: A typical Liberal meeting.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): Is that right, Brian?

Mr. Tobin: You just hung yourself.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the New Democratic Party says—

Mr. Tobin: You just hung yourself—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Tobin: —and you are too foolish to know it.

An Hon. Member: Shut up!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!