

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, once again this Government is just not being upfront with the Canadian people. I have in front of me the document to which the Minister refers. Why has he attempted to persuade the Canadian people that this outline of liabilities, which is very precise and has nothing to do with the possible lawsuits I have talked about, has any relevance with respect to this question? The points on this document do not deal with this issue.

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, we did not have to persuade Canadians of the necessity of selling this company. It had already lost \$1.2 billion. We dealt with a company which provided technology in Canada. We made sure that the jobs here were secure. That is exactly what Canadians expect us to do and that is what we did.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. W. Paul McCrossan (York-Scarborough): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Communications with whom, incidentally, I and six other Members were first elected eight years ago today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McCrossan: Last year the CBC spent \$57 million which it cannot account for. Can the Minister guarantee to the House that none of this money was misappropriated or, indeed, stolen?

Hon. David Crombie (Acting Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Communications is out of the House on business. The Hon. Member may or may not be aware that the Auditor General is continuing to work with the CBC to reconcile the differences. I also gather that the CBC has established a task force with respect to this matter. It may well be that the Hon. Member may want to raise the question with the Minister when she returns on Monday.

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MULTICULTURALISM

MANDATE OF CANADIAN MULTICULTURALISM COUNCIL

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Multiculturalism and concerns a

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confidential report written by the Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Multiculturalism Council and addressed to his Government. It says that all council members are committed supporters of the Conservative Party of Canada, reflect advice from a selection of the Government's principal supporters, and are committed to the Government's survival beyond the next election.

Why has the Minister's Government changed the mandate of this national advisory body and given it over \$350,000 in public funds to safeguard and satisfy the political interests of the Conservative Party of Canada?

Hon. David Crombie (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I guess a couple of points are probably in order. First, I have not had a chance to read the report. Secondly, the Hon. Member will appreciate that this is something which his Party established two years ago and we are simply carrying on the mandate.

I met with the executive committee of the council and will be meeting with the full council at the end of the month. In my meeting with the executive committee they did not raise the report. I have no idea whether these people are Conservatives, Liberals, or New Democrats. If the Hon. Member says they are, he might want to ask them because some of those people—

Mr. Marchi: Your Vice-Chairman says they are.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member for York West.

REQUEST FOR RESIGNATION OF COUNCIL'S VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, if the Government wants partisan advice—

Some Hon. Members: Question!

Mr. Marchi: —the Conservative Party should pay for it, not the taxpayers of Canada.

Will the Minister put an immediate end to the scandalous manipulation of the multicultural program and begin by asking for the immediate resignation of the Council's Vice-Chairman, and initiate an immediate investigation into the affairs of that council?

Hon. David Crombie (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, members of that committee were chosen two years ago on the basis of their knowledge of their community and their willingness to make a contribution to this country. The Hon. Member may want to impugn their integrity but he ought to be careful before he does. That is why I say to him that he should remember that their contribution is to this country and they should not be asked to contribute to the Hon. Member's politics.