

*Privilege—Mr. Boudria*

the world and these operators that Canada is closed to these types of activities but open for honest and legitimate refugees?

[Translation]

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, this is the first time the Hon. Member for York West had admitted that the measures taken by the Government on February 20 are effective. Indeed, with respect to the communities from which we had high rates of immigration three months ago, the matter has now been settled.

As to the Brazilians, my colleague will admit that we are monitoring the situation, and there again I appreciate his acknowledgement that the measures we took are effective. If necessary, we will continue to apply them in the coming days.

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[English]

#### ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

##### ALASKA ARCTIC WILDLIFE REFUGE—PROPOSAL TO ISSUE OIL AND GAS LEASES

**Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of the Interior have recommended allowing oil and gas leasing in the Alaska Arctic Wildlife Refuge, the international home of the porcupine caribou herd of Yukon and the Northwest Territories. If adopted, that would violate an international understanding between our countries to protect this fragile habitat and very important herd. What recourse does the Government have if the United States Department of the Interior proceeds with these leases?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, last week the United States Secretary of Energy made a statement with regard to the so-called 1002 lands. Canada made a recommendation which had some slight influence, to the extent that the Interior Secretary's recommendation made reference for the first time to the importance of the caribou herds.

We are disappointed in the general tenor of the response. I was in touch by telephone last week with the head of the Government of Yukon and the Minister of Renewable Resources of Northwest Territories. We are considering the next steps with them and the Canadian native people involved.

The Hon. Member would be interested to know that, on a related question, we are finalizing plans for the signing of a Canada-U.S. agreement on the conservation of the porcupine caribou herd.

#### PRIVILEGE

##### ALLEGED ERRONEOUS INFORMATION IN REPLY TO QUESTION ON THE ORDER PAPER

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I have given the Chair a copy of the grievance that I bring to the attention of the House. I have also contacted the office of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. McInnes) to indicate to him that I wanted to rise today on a question of privilege.

Needless to say, if you determine that I have a prima facie case of privilege I am willing to move the necessary motion to bring this matter to the appropriate parliamentary committee.

It is a long custom in the House that Members of Parliament are to provide other members factual information and only the truth. As a matter of fact, I am sure you will remind Hon. Members that to assume that any Member of the House ever states anything but the truth would be, in itself, a breach of the Standing Orders of the House. Of course, all Members of Parliament are deemed to be honourable members and therefore one expects to hear the truth in the House and nothing else.

I want to bring to your attention the fact that I placed Question No. 2 on the Order Paper in June last year. Question No. 2 was replied to on October 1 by the Minister of Public Works. I will read the question and answer and make them available to the House. The question I posed to the Government was:

1. Did the Government employ the services of Colvin Designs Ltd. and/or Giovanni Mowinkle, interior designer during the period September 4, 1984 to June 30, 1986, to supply furnishings, improvements, interior decorating or advice on same for the Prime Minister's residence at 24 Sussex Drive in Ottawa or the Harrington Lake residence and, if so, by residence, what was the cost of each contract?

• (1510)

The second question was also on the Order Paper. It was the following:

Was all of the work paid for from Government funds and, if not, who paid such costs and what was the amount involved in each case?

The reply was: "No" to the first part of the question and: "Not applicable" to the second part.

It has come to my attention, as reported by a Toronto newspaper, *The Globe and Mail*, that in fact the Government of Canada through the National Capital Commission paid an invoice or invoices amounting to \$38,414.60 for furnishings and services to 24 Sussex Drive and that these funds had been paid to either Giovanni Mowinkle, Colvin Designs or both. This appears to be in contradiction to the first part of the question that I asked. With respect to the second part of my question the Minister indicated that it was not applicable.

I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that even if all the funds had been paid by someone else the fact remains that Mr. Mowinkle appears to have performed work and to have been compensated for that work.