

PRIME MINISTER

*MS*

c.c. Mr. Whitmore

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I thought I should record what took place in the House this morning.

Mr. Hamilton rose to say that he would be seeking an S09 debate on Monday, since it was clear that the Government had no intention of offering their own time for a debate on Blunt. He said that the story had been kept under wraps by a conspiracy among the establishment.

Mr. Skinner said that in the light of the revelations of yesterday and the absence of a statement from the Despatch Box, and the fact that Lord Home and Lord Butler had said that they did not know about Blunt, he wished to support the application. He said that thousands, if not millions of people were asking the question of who was running the country, and whether there was a network outside the democratically elected Government.

Mr. Cryer said that the country was concerned about startling revelations which amounted to a scandal of national proportions. He invited the Leader of the House to say whether there would be an early debate. He asked whether there were other moles, and whether there might even be 20 of them. He said that there had been an establishment cover-up, and asked whether there was an inner Government or a democratically elected Government.

Mr. Price asked the Speaker to confirm that there were precedents in the Burgess and Maclean case for a full debate on the floor of the House, and that there was no absolute ban on discussing grave and important matters of this kind in the House.

Mr. McNally said that a lot of people in the country could not understand why the House of Commons was not able to discuss the case.

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The Speaker said that he would undertake to give an application for an SO9 Debate "very serious consideration", and that he would deal with it on Monday.

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16 November, 1979.