

## Parrish applauded on Bullard talk show

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TORONTO -- Carolyn Parrish, the antiwar MP who was overheard calling Americans bastards, told Mike Bullard last night that she meant what she said -- but she should have kept her thoughts to herself.

Appearing on Mr. Bullard's late-night talk show, *Open Mike*, the MP for Mississauga Centre rejected the TV host's suggestion that reporters took her statement out of context.

"No, no they didn't, they took it right in context," she told a studio audience of about 260 people who offered her repeated rounds of applause.

"It just came out of my mouth. It's obviously something I believe in because I've been working in Bosnia and the Middle East."

Ms. Parrish, who wore a pin depicting the U.S. and Canadian flags intertwined when she appeared as Mr. Bullard's first guest of the evening, said she has taken a lot of heat since uttering "Damn Americans, I hate those bastards," on Parliament Hill last week.

"First of all, my mother yelled at me for saying bastard and then I got 4,000 e-mails from the United States of America and they called me things I've never heard of."

Ms. Parrish said she had a tough time deciding how to answer Mr. Bullard's questions because her natural tendency is to be "a bit of a smart aleck," as witnessed by the remarks that vaulted her onto the front pages.

Mr. Bullard, who was supportive in his treatment of his guest, said he would like her to be entertaining and "somewhat truthful."

To which she replied: "I've already been more truthful than I should have been."

The looming war in Iraq is a serious issue, she said, and "shenanigans" south of the border leave her less than impressed. But she agreed that her words were impolitic and she should not have slammed all Americans in a single mouthful.

"I think I would be more specific next time," Ms. Parrish said, adding that she would restrict her criticism to the "eight or nine members" of the U.S. administration she believes are propelling the United States towards war.

At the time the news of her remarks broke, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien was on a state visit to Mexico where he and President Vicente Fox were discussing the Iraq situation.

A senior Liberal said the episode raised concern in the Prime Minister's Office and the caucus, but Ms. Parrish told Mr. Bullard that Mr. Chrétien had not said anything "cross" to her.

She has apologized at least twice publicly.

Mr. Bullard replied that he did not think she was wrong to speak her mind. "You're well within your rights to say it," he said ". . . There's been a lot of negative things said about us from down there."

Even so, Ms. Parrish said she regrets her remarks.

"I think what I did was wrong. I think that in the position I've got you have to be a little bit more diplomatic," she said.

"I opened my mouth, I inserted my foot, I wiggled my toes and I can't even promise it won't happen again."

