

*Oral Questions***YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT**

REQUEST FOR AMENDMENTS

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. It deals with saving young Canadians from lives of crime. Will the Minister consider bringing in amendments to the Young Offenders Act which will enable the police to deal more effectively with crimes committed by 17 and 18-year old youths and by juveniles?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, as I take up my new responsibilities, may I start by thanking the Right Hon. Prime Minister for giving me something easy for a change.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, jealousy will get those fellows nowhere.

The Hon. Member has had long-standing concerns, as have a number of other Members, with respect to the Young Offenders Act. I have asked my staff to bring me up to date at an early stage on the provisions in the Act, the philosophy behind it, and the provisions of the previous legislation, with a view to ensuring that I am made fully aware of what concerns there are and of what problems may have to be addressed in a legislative sense.

It is still early in the life of the new Act to make any final decisions. However, I can assure the Hon. Member that I will be consulting broadly.

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EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PLACEMENT OF LEGAL BUSINESS

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, since I am on my feet now I would like to take this opportunity to wish the new Solicitor General well in a tough job.

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Last Saturday's *The Citizen*, of Ottawa, reported a favour conferred by the Export Development Corporation, a Crown corporation, on a close personal friend of the Prime Minister in the form of taking legal business from an existing firm and awarding it to another firm which the close personal friend had just joined. Bill Fox in the Prime Minister's office told CP that categorically and absolutely the Prime Minister's office had no involvement in the matter whatsoever. Did the Prime Minister himself play any role whatsoever, direct or indirect, with respect to Sam Wakim's firm obtaining the Export Development business, or was it merely a coincidence?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, no, I played no role in business going to that very reputable firm, even though—and I do not wish to offend any legal spirits—it is widely known that the Leader of the Opposition

did not join McMillan Binch to write trust deeds. It was widely known that he had a certain attractiveness to clients.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Mulroney: All lawyers try to get business. What is wrong with that?

INQUIRY OF PRIME MINISTER

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, did the Prime Minister discuss the prospective work with Mr. Wakim before it was awarded, or with any government office holder, to use the terms of the new conflict of interest guidelines?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have had no such discussions. However, may I ask the Hon. Member—

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Mulroney: Has the Hon. Member personally visited law firms in Toronto to ascertain whether he could secure any allegations against Mr. Wakim? Perhaps he could tell the House whether or not that was the case.

Mr. Kaplan: The answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

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APARTHEID

SOUTH AFRICA—DEMAND FOR STRONG ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Yesterday I was denied the courtesy of a response when I asked the hon. gentleman, as I ask him again today, what loud voices he is listening to which are more compelling than the 77 per cent of black South Africans and their most respected leaders who are demanding strong economic sanctions against the South African regime?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have made statements, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs has announced serious policies and sanctions, which convey this Government's attitude of absolute adherence with respect to the policy of apartheid practised by the Government of South Africa. I have had conversations, as has the Secretary of State for External Affairs, with people ranging from Bishop Tutu to other leaders involved in the process who have shared their views with us.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced in early July, prior to many other friendly nations, serious policies which indicate the strong abhorrence of this Government vis-à-vis apartheid. I believe the Secretary of State shortly will be announcing further stands which I think the Hon. Member will find helpful and appropriate for the Government of Canada.