

Oral Questions

Mr. Fulton: You're not doing anything!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): The Hon. Member does not want to listen to the answer. However, I think that his constituents would like to hear it. We have these ongoing discussions with the United States to try to find a solution to this problem which will help the people about whom he is talking.

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[Translation]

THE ADMINISTRATION**METHOD OF AWARDING CONTRACTS—REQUEST FOR INQUIRY**

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): My question is directed to the Solicitor General and concerns the matter of alleged kickbacks demanded by the Conservative Party in exchange for contracts from the Department of Public Works. The day before yesterday, the Hon. Member for Broadview—Greenwood drew the attention of the House to allegations concerning Mr. André Bureau, and at the time the Minister of Justice said there would be an investigation. Why did they agree to an investigation in the case of Mr. Bureau, when the day before, they refused to order an investigation of the Public Works contracts? Is there one justice for Canadians and another justice for the Conservatives?

[English]

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member has any evidence of any criminal activity on the part of anyone, he has the obligation to bring it directly to the attention of the police. I hope he will do so.

Mr. Boudria: I hope, then, that the Minister has evidence in the other case which he has not shared with us.

REQUEST THAT INQUIRY BE INSTITUTED

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, in light of public comments in the media concerning these alleged kick-back schemes in Public Works is there, or is there not, going to be a criminal inquiry? There is in the other case. If not, are Canadians being led to believe that this is Tory justice and that is what they will get from now on?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I guess what the public will be interested to know is whether this is simply Liberal histrionics or whether the Hon. Member has any evidence whatsoever to turn over to the police. If he has any evidence to turn over to the police—

Mr. Rossi: Look at the Gallup Polls, they will tell you!

Mr. Beatty:—they will be pleased to receive it and they will investigate.

Mr. Boudria: If it's a Tory it requires more evidence than for someone else.

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AIR CANADA**REPORTED SUSPENSION OF FLIGHT ATTENDANT**

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. It concerns a matter about which I know he and his colleagues are well aware. I have just received word that the Air Canada flight attendant who expressed her opinion when asked by a delegate to a Conservative convention has been assessed a 30-day suspension without pay.

Some Hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Benjamin: I would like to ask the Deputy Prime Minister if the Government will make representations to Air Canada to have this unjustified decision reconsidered and rescinded?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transport responded yesterday, and I believe the day before, that when received by him the matter was referred at once to the board of Air Canada. The decision, about which I am not aware, and which has been drawn to the attention of the House by the hon. gentleman, is a corporate decision.

Mr. Deans: It wouldn't have happened if it had not been for Maz.

Mr. Nielsen: His representations with respect to what should occur from now on will be brought to the attention of the Minister of Transport immediately upon his return. Should he see fit in his judgment to pass those on to the board, I am sure he will do so.

EXPRESSION OF OPINIONS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, since this all started out of the Minister of Transport's office and has now culminated in this, are all employees of the Government of Canada, Crown corporations and agencies, to consider that they suffer the consequences of having an opinion and expressing it when asked for it, whether they are on or off duty? Will this now be the criteria of the Conservative Government?

● (1440)

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Not at all, Mr. Speaker. The hon. gentleman does a disservice to the House when he leaves that sort of murky accusation or implication lying around. To set the facts straight, let us remind ourselves that the Minister of Transport