Oral Questions

Mr. Trudeau: Ha, yes. The Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead says ha, technical. That is what it is—ha, technical, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: That is what you tell Alastair Gillespie.

Mr. Bosley: Mr. Speaker, The Prime Minister, I take it, continues to regard conflict of interest rules as simply a technical matter.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES

Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West): My question to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, is very simple. Since we know the standards of the Prime Minister on this matter, let me ask him another question.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I sense a certain nervousness on the other side.

Mr. Bosley: Will the Prime Minister undertake to discuss this matter with the Prime Minister designate and report to this House what the standards are of the Prime Minister designate with regard to conflict of interest? In other words, will he tell us, after talking with Mr. Turner, whether Mr. Turner believes it is reasonable while he maintains his directorships to see confidential briefing documents?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will be happy to take notice of the question on behalf of Mr. Turner, Mr. Speaker.

CORPORATE DIRECTORSHIP RESIGNATIONS

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister. If you exclude the activities of the companies with which Mr. Turner is connected, the briefing books will be pretty thin indeed.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Miss Carney: I have one simple question for the Prime Minister. Has he himself suggested to Mr. Turner that Mr. Turner should resign the corporate directorships before taking office—like now?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, no, I have not suggested that to Mr. Turner. It seems to me self-evident that Mr. Turner is not going to be serving the CPR or any of these other companies.

Mr. Stevens: How do you know?

Mr. Trudeau: He has been elected Leader of the Liberal Party.

Mr. McDermid: And elected to the boards, too.

Mr. Trudeau: He will be Prime Minister in a very short time.

I take it that the only reason his resignations are effective at the end of the month is only a technical reason, once again.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stevens: It is pay day.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: He doesn't get a cheque unless he resigns.

Mr. Trudeau: The Members opposite seem to be very aware of the technical and financial aspects of that particular date.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stevens: And the nation be damned.

Mr. Trudeau: That is their chosen field, Mr. Speaker, It is not mine. If it is for some—

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Wait a minute. You might end up on one of those boards.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: They are looking for somebody—anybody.

Mr. Trudeau: I have got to be gentle on the CPR.

Mr. Stevens: You have always been gentle on the CPR.

Mr. Trudeau: After all they may be looking for a replacement for Mr. Turner.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: You have done enough already.

Mr. Trudeau: All I can say, Mr. Speaker, is, if drafted, I will not stand.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss Carney: Mr. Speaker, we are sorry that the Prime Minister finds questions and issues of public morality to be a laughing matter.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

• (1430)

POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, changes are being proposed to the National Energy Program to correct some of its more glaring errors. Does the Prime Minister feel that it is all right or acceptable for Mr. Turner to