

*Oral Questions*

management and, above all, to be guided by the highest standards of conduct—

**Mr. Speaker:** The question, please. No preamble.

**Mr. Boudria:** Mr. Speaker, does the Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister intend to demand forthwith the resignation of the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion? Yes or no?

[*English*]

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** No.

## REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister as well and deals with the problems of the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. Just a short while ago the Deputy Prime Minister asked Canadians to believe that there was full compliance with the code, even though there was no investigation at all. Would the Deputy Prime Minister not agree that a full and thorough investigation ought to be held to verify that in fact there is no conflict of interest?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the code of conduct for public officials is in place for the purpose of dealing with conflict of interest questions. All Ministers of the Crown are required to comply with that code of conduct. Through the office of the Assistant Deputy Registrar General I have satisfied myself that there has been compliance. I have so reported to the Prime Minister. I have said repeatedly, yesterday and today, that that compliance exists. If the Member has not done so, I invite him to confirm with the Assistant Deputy Registrar General that there has in fact been compliance with the code of conduct by the Minister concerned.

## INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Is the Deputy Prime Minister saying: "Trust us"? Canadians have heard that before.

## MEMBER'S CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT DEPUTY REGISTRAR GENERAL

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister as well. Yesterday we heard from the Assistant Deputy Registrar General's office that it was absolutely not their policy to reveal information about any inquiries from any Members of Parliament. How was the Deputy Prime Minister able to intercept a private telephone conversation from my office, or was he simply passing by an open window?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I have no problem with that.

In my own experience, when I was the Minister of Public Works in 1979, and in each office that I have held in this Government, one of my first instructions to my officials was that when any Member of Parliament calls them I want to know about it because I want to assist those Members of Parliament in doing their jobs.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, how does the Deputy Prime Minister expect Canadians to believe his statement that there was no conflict of interest when, quite clearly by his own conduct not only this week but also in the past, he has shown Canadians that he does not understand the meaning of the word "integrity"?

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Andre:** Withdraw.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Some Hon. Members:** Withdraw.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! The Hon. Member will withdraw that.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Throw her out.

**Mr. Ouellet:** It's a question.

**Ms. Copps:** I asked a question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! It is not a question. The first part was a question. The last part was a statement which the Hon. Member will withdraw.

**Ms. Copps:** No.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** A martyr.

**Some Hon. Members:** Withdraw!

**Ms. Copps:** Mr. Speaker, I am looking for guidance. I asked a question.

**Mr. Speaker:** May I ask the Hon. Member simply to withdraw the allegation.

**Mr. Nystrom:** It's not unparliamentary.

**Some Hon. Members:** Out, out.

**Ms. Copps:** A question, Mr. Speaker, should be—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order!

**Mr. Benjamin:** It's not unparliamentary.