

*Routine Proceedings*

those not in public life. So whether the character of the individual is such that he will run to his former boss and deliver the goodies on people the Prime Minister may like to embarrass is less the issue than the issue of the appearance that he is a person with that kind of a close, intimate relation to the Prime Minister and with a commitment to his political success. That is why we are entitled to worry about this appointment.

I cannot believe that the Minister of Justice does not see the sensitivity of this particular mistake and perhaps has not advised the Prime Minister that it is a mistake to take such a close buddy, someone who has been so identified with the career of the Prime Minister, with the success of that career, with the political campaign of that career and put him in a position where ordinary Canadians are entitled to be suspicious that abuses may occur.

Choose another person. Give us the opportunity to examine some other names from St. Francis Xavier University, or elsewhere. It is not only a matter of being a Conservative either. There are lots of Conservative appointments that this government has put forward of which we have approved and that we have acknowledged are good appointments. But this is not the job for a person who has had the background in the last few years that Bruce Phillips has had.

I urge the government to consider it again. I assure the government that every member of the opposition will be voting against this appointment. I ask the government to take our opinion seriously.

**Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a comment on the hon. member's statement. I have never heard anything so replete with innuendo and character assassination.

It is very difficult in this city to work without developing relationships with people who are elected members of Parliament. The hon. member has suggested that there is something about Mr. Phillips' relationship with the Prime Minister, as a result of his having spent about three years as a paid employee of the Prime Minister's office doing a job that directly related to his professional function, the career in which he spent most of life, that would in some way lead Mr. Phillips, who he regards as otherwise a man of integrity, to betray a lifetime of integrity and to betray the office of an officer of

Parliament by providing what he describes as his "close buddy" with information to which the "close buddy" is not entitled.

I find that an absolutely extraordinary assertion. I would point out again that the current incumbent of that office is a close and intimate friend of the recently retired leader of the hon. member's party, a close intimate friend who probably wished well—

**Mr. Gauthier:** Was he in his cabinet?

**Ms. Campbell (Vancouver Centre):** The hon. member is suggesting that somehow this close intimate relationship with the Prime Minister, the commitment to the success of the Prime Minister, would lead someone to behave in a highly unethical fashion.

**Mr. Mills:** Not unethical, but partisan.

**Ms. Campbell (Vancouver Centre):** What I am saying is that there are many close relationships in this city that do not lead people to betray their integrity, just as it has never occurred to anyone in this House to suggest that the long, close personal relationship between the current incumbent of the office of the Privacy Commissioner and high profile, partisan people in this town would in any way compromise his ability to conduct the job with integrity. In some ways, perhaps it is better to have someone's relationships open and above board, because it makes it easier for the standing committee to subject them to scrutiny and to test them.

No one in a million years would suggest that there was ever any basis on which to impugn the integrity of Mr. Grace, and the relationship between Mr. Phillips and the Prime Minister is of so much less significance and importance. Mr. Phillips had a paid position in the Prime Minister's office. He has left that paid position. The Prime Minister is no longer his boss. He has shown a great ability already to be independent of mind in acting as assistant Privacy Commissioner in his participation in the recent study that has come out.

The hon. member's speech was an absolutely consummate example of character assassination by innuendo. It is very important to understand that, in this House, unless there is evidence to the contrary, we assume that people have integrity. Mr. Phillips has shown no evidence of not having integrity. In fact, the hon. member has said he believes he is a man of integrity.