

*Oral Questions*

based on five basic standards. We achieved something remarkable yesterday, of which I am very proud for Canadians, and that is that surcharges and user fees on the one hand, and extra billing on the other, are now part of the dossier and will be looked into. Parameters and conditions will be developed in order to strengthen medicare and keep it universal. That is remarkable and very important, and I think the hon. member should help us achieve that.

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

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**THE JUDICIARY****JUDGMENT USED BY SOLICITOR GENERAL IN SUBMITTING CHARACTER REFERENCES**

**Mr. Chris Speyer (Cambridge):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In another context the Prime Minister characterized the ways of the Solicitor General as being unforgivably naive and showing poor political judgment. Within the context of the English case and the Arrindell case, the Prime Minister knows that in one case the Solicitor General knew the accused indirectly and that in the other case his knowledge was not extensive. There were two counts of robbery relating to two different cities. A loaded gun was used. The Solicitor General put the prestige of his ministry on the line by using the Solicitor General letterhead. Will the Prime Minister agree in these circumstances that the Solicitor General used poor judgment?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I dealt with the substance of the issue yesterday. On the matter of judgment, I would say that is a question of judgment.

**Mr. Speyer:** Madam Speaker, that type of attitude and answer demonstrates how blunted the ethics of the Prime Minister really are.

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

**QUERY RESPECTING PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT**

**Mr. Chris Speyer (Cambridge):** Madam Speaker, my second question arises from an answer the Prime Minister gave two days ago in which he said:

—I think it is more important that justice be done than that it appear to be done.

If it is more important that justice be done than that it appear to be done, how does the ordinary citizen have any faith in a system of justice in which justice does not appear to be done, as in the case of English and Arrindell?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, it seems to me my statement is self-evident. Certainly justice has to be done, and that is the basic principle. If it can

also appear to be done, so much the better, but I realize you can never make a good case sound like a good case in front of members of the opposition because they have pretty poor judgment.

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

● (1430)

**REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER SEEK RESIGNATION OF SOLICITOR GENERAL**

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question for the Prime Minister concerns the role of the Solicitor General as the minister responsible for the administration of penitentiaries. It raises a very serious question of conflict of interest, not to mention the bad judgment of the Solicitor General. The two accused persons are now serving sentences in the penitentiaries of this country which are under the jurisdiction of the Solicitor General. Clearly he is in conflict of interest because there was an intervention by the Solicitor General before the courts on behalf of these two people which was clearly in conflict with the guidelines. That would seem to put them in a rather privileged position vis-à-vis their supervisors and caretakers who are accountable to the Solicitor General.

Given that clear conflict of interest, and forgetting all about bad judgment, will the Prime Minister not now ask for the resignation of this accident-prone minister?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I apologize, because I did not understand the reasoning of the hon. member's suggestion of a conflict of interest. If he is saying that the actions are contrary to the guidelines, that is the issue in the debate with which I dealt yesterday to my satisfaction.

**REQUEST THAT SOLICITOR GENERAL BE RE-ASSIGNED WITHIN CABINET**

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Madam Speaker, perhaps I could put the question another way. The letters that were filed with counsel and with the court on behalf of these two accused persons who are now serving sentences, are on their records. They will emerge during the process of parole and they will emerge during the process of classification within the penitentiary system. That is clearly a conflict of interest situation. If the Prime Minister cannot see that, then there is something wrong with his judgment. Consequently, I would ask, forgetting about the guidelines, if he is not prepared to ask the Solicitor General for his resignation would he at least have him assigned to a less sensitive portfolio?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the answer to the question is no.