

*Oral Questions*

the calendar works against us"? It is two years or it ain't two years. And in this case it was two years.

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

## POSITION OF PRESENT MINISTERS

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West):** Madam Speaker, the guidelines which have been recited by my Leader and by the Hon. Member for Calgary Centre indicate the whole process of lobbying for a contract is part of the prohibition in the guidelines. That contract may have been signed a few days after the two years, but certainly there had to be a preliminary amount of lobbying on the part of Mr. Gillespie. We have had Mr. Donald Macdonald, we have had Mr. Judd Buchanan, and now we have Mr. Alastair Gillespie, former Cabinet colleagues, all involved in special preferential deals. What I would like to know on the question of the morality of the Government, is whether or not it is going to take any action against present Members of its Cabinet who have violated those particular guidelines?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, we now have the Hon. Member for Saskatoon West alleging that there was a violation—allegating there was a violation of guidelines, when I have just demonstrated that there was no violation of the guidelines. So what is he talking about?

## REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER TAKE ACTION

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West):** I will tell the Prime Minister what I am talking about, Madam Speaker. I am talking about a memorandum of understanding which was signed in October, 1980. Is that good enough for the Prime Minister? I will tell the Prime Minister that the question the people of Canada are asking is, is there any morality left in this Cabinet? Is the Prime Minister going to take any action against the Minister of Finance for violating conflict of interest guidelines?

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

● (1440)

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, while the people of Canada are asking that question, they should also ask themselves if there is any morality left in the Opposition benches where, so long as I have been around here, they have been making allegations that they have never been able to substantiate. Now, if this is a serious allegation, if there is a memorandum of understanding, I would like to know about it.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Table it.

**Mr. Trudeau:** But I have—table it? I did not even know it exists, Madam Speaker.

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

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Well, you know now.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Great laughs over there. It is obviously something which the Member from Saskatoon West knows something about. Why doesn't he make his case, then I will be able to judge? But I cannot know everything which has happened with former Ministers over the years. If he has an allegation to make, let him make it. Then the people will see our answer, they will know what the allegations are, and we will know if the people over there are just making mischief or whether they are serious about governing the country.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister cannot flim flam this House.

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

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** He knows that the guidelines are clear. In each instance where we bring up a question of conflict of interest by former Cabinet Ministers, nothing happens.

## REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West):** Madam Speaker, in the spirit of the new rules I want to know whether the Prime Minister has the courage to have this matter investigated by a parliamentary Committee so that the facts can come out in an orderly manner rather than the stonewalling we get from the Prime Minister every time we raise one of these questions?

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

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, surely I am not stonewalling this. I am inviting the Hon. Member to state the facts.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Table the agreement.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Why wait for a committee which might take some time to set up? Why don't we hear the facts? The Member talks about a memorandum of understanding dated some unspecified date. Let us hear about it.

**Some Hon. Members:** October, 1980.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Well, let us see it and hear about it. Why wait for a committee, Madam Speaker?

**Some Hon. Members:** Table it.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Who is doing the stonewalling?

**Mr. Nielsen:** It is your agreement.

**Mr. Trudeau:** They are playing some hiding game over there and I do not know what it is, but I wish they would be frank and stop covering up their own tracks.

**Madam Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong).