

Now, on September 9, 1985, after a series of scandals embarrassed this Government, the Prime Minister rose in the House and presented a new code of conduct for public office holders. He presented this whole package, this new morality kit, all wrapped in a blue ribbon, and set it here on the Clerk's Table in the House. I have in my hand this so-called code of conduct for public office holders. It is quite an interesting document and we know that Judge Parker addressed the issue of how well or badly some Ministers followed the code presented in September 1985.

Now, in September 1985, the Prime Minister made some statements. On one hand, he sent a letter to MPs and Senators; on the other, he also proposed measures related to public morality in areas not covered by the code of conduct for public office holders. First, he proposed a code governing conflicts of interest; second, on September 9, 1985, he proposed new rules for the awarding of jobs or contracts. This concerned Ministers—I won't name anyone—who were sometimes tempted to hire their relatives, like their son as a lawyer, say, or their brother, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, and so on. This has happened in some cases.

There was also a new code of ethics for MPs and Senators set forth in a letter the Prime Minister sent to them. Another provision of this code of ethics was parliamentary review of Order-in-Council appointments. So this was established.

There was a Bill on lobbying. Madam Speaker, I am sure you remember it took me 15 questions in the House, over a period of two years, to convince the Government to proceed with this measure. Finally, it did. There were further steps, such as the advice to Crown corporations to stop hiring lobbyists. We all know that Frank Moores was hired by a number of Crown corporations to lobby the Government, and this while Mr. Moores was a friend of the Prime Minister, and so forth.

In concluding, the Prime Minister said in his letter, and I am quoting here from page 11—he mentioned this new code of ethics. He said: "This package of reforms is evidence of the Government's intent to adopt ethical standards worthy of the respect of the Canadian people . . .". And we know what happened next. In so doing, we wish to further the process of national renewal by revitalizing the faith of the citizens of this country in their institutions of government. Many of these steps are long overdue, and heaven knows this Government has had cause to regret their absence." That is well said, Madam Speaker." But now they are in place, or in the process of being put in place, and we can look forward together to the dawning of a new day of trust and confidence." That was September 9, 1985.

Later on I will talk about what has happened since September 9, 1985. I may remind all Members of this House and all Canadians of what I just read: The dawning of a new day of trust and confidence.

Conflict of Interest

So as of September 1985, we had this set of codes, a set of new rules governing or regulating the conduct of public office holders, and so forth.

• (1700)

[*English*]

If one did not know any better and if one had left Canada that day or perhaps had left the planet for somewhere else and come back this afternoon, one would believe that everything worked well after September 9, 1985, that no Conservative Cabinet Minister got himself or herself into trouble, that no accusations of conflict of interest had been made that a contract had been awarded improperly—

Mrs. Mailly: That is garbage!

Mr. Boudria:—that no people were charged with criminal wrongdoing or anything of the sort. We cannot comment on the people who have been charged individually except that the process will take care of itself. We know that has happened. We can talk about the other issues, particularly those involving conflict of interest.

I see the Member across the way is becoming rather excited because I am talking about the conflict of interest rules. I know it is an exciting topic. Perhaps her colleagues can contain her for a few minutes while I finish my remarks.

Mr. Siddon: What you are doing is cowardly slander!

Mr. Boudria: I want to read from a September 9, 1985 article that appeared in *The Ottawa Citizen*. This was two days before the code of September 9 was introduced. The article is entitled "Firm Hires PM's Pal, \$200,000 Job Follows." It reads like this:

A Toronto law firm was awarded \$200,000-a-year worth of federal government legal work shortly after one of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's closest friends joined it earlier this year, *The Citizen* has learned.

It goes on to describe how Mr. Sam Wakim was hired by a Toronto law firm and by coincidence a lot of government contracts followed in that direction.

On October 2, 1986 there was another article—

[*Translation*]

Ms. Maily: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Gatineau (Ms. Maily), on a point of order.

Ms. Maily: Madam Speaker, I am starting to wonder about the relevance of what the Member is saying. He makes allegations about what some people who are not Members of Parliament might have done. The Bill we are considering today concerns conflicts of interest involving Members of Parliament and their spouses. I believe that he is having a great time, but I do not think it has anything to do with the Bill. Besides, it is his irresponsible attitude that has put us in the situation we are in today and not the Bill.