

*Oral Questions***CANADA ELECTIONS ACT**

MINISTER'S ADVERTISING EXPENSES

Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston): Mr. Speaker, my question is with regard to the Wilson family compact. Yesterday in the House the Minister indicated that he did not know that his sister Wendy was on the board of directors of Lawson Murray Limited, the company headed by his brother-in-law, Doug. The Minister suggested that at all times he was dealing at arm's length with Lawson Murray Limited.

Would the Minister tell the House whether he is aware that one company, namely, Lawson Murray Limited, was paid \$27,306.04, or 65.2 per cent of the Minister's total election expenses, during the Minister's election campaign?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not know what this has to do with the matter that we have been discussing. This company helped me in the advertising during the election campaign, and that is what they were paid for.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, it is unusual that one company should be paid 65 per cent of the total election expenses.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nunziata: The Minister practised nepotism during his election campaign. He is now practising nepotism with taxpayers' dollars.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Order.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nunziata: This leads one to question seriously the credibility and competence of the Minister to carry on as Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please. I am sure that the Hon. Member knows that he is rising in the House to ask Minister's questions with regard to their ministerial responsibilities. I am sure he knows that, and I am sure he has a question to ask.

Mr. Nunziata: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

AWARDING OF CONTRACT

Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston): In view of the fact that the Minister discussed the propriety of the \$234,000 government contract to Lawson Murray with his brother-in-law, Doug, and his sister, Wendy, before it was signed, would the Minister not agree that he exercised extremely poor judgment in allowing his brother-in-law, Doug, and his sister, Wendy, to get the contract?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the premise of the Hon. Member's question is quite false. He made two mistakes in the preamble.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW GUIDELINES

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. It is related to the issue of the Government awarding contracts to its political friends without any tendering procedure. Last September Canadians voted for a breath of fresh air in the Government's dealings in the area of patronage and tendering.

Are the new regulations in effect, and were they used in the consideration of the contract given to the brother-in-law of the Minister of Finance? Are they being used in the consideration of Camp Associates for the tourism business of the Government?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Supply and Services I would like to address the question specifically. I do not understand why the New Democratic Party keeps asking the same question over and over again. If they cannot understand a very simple proposition, I do not know what is wrong with them. The answer to the question was given to them yesterday.

When we first came into office we were seized with the old guidelines of the previous administration, the Treasury Board directive. What we did at an early date was bring forward new guidelines which are now in the process of being completed by Treasury Board, and which have been in effect since early this year with respect to the method by which advertising contracts will be selected. This is a cost efficient and a new method in which there is a greater degree of accountability. This is a system that I recommend to the New Democratic Party which does not use it in any provincial administration that I have heard of.

● (1430)

Mr. Murphy: Concerning the Minister's last comment, I would ask him to check to see what does happen in Manitoba, because they do have contracts going to Tory firms. That is allowed in that province.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order. A supplementary question.

FILING OF GUIDELINES

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, in his response the Minister asked why we have to keep asking the same question. I would like to know the answer to that, too.

Yesterday, in reply to our Leader, the Prime Minister said that there are new guidelines and "we will be happy to file them at your earliest convenience." Today our office tried to