

Oral Questions

In the light of recent revelations according to which Mr. Peter Czapka—son of the Anton Czapka who lent \$2.6 million to one of the Minister's companies—received a grant from the Minister, could the Minister inform the House whether he abides by his statement that there was no breach of Section 16 of the Code of Conduct concerning conflicts of interest and whether he maintains there has not been even the semblance of a conflict of interest in this case?

[English]

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Hon. Member was not listening when I answered a very similar question from his Leader earlier.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): You did not answer my question at all.

Mr. Stevens: The transaction he is referring to is an integral part of the Memorandum of Understanding signed on August 27, 1984 by the previous Government under the name of Ed Lumley. The implementation of those transactions, which totalled some \$9 million, was simply the processing our Department carried on with.

PROVISION OF GUIDELINES—REQUEST FOR DISMISSAL OF MINISTER

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Is it not time that he invoked Section 38 of the Code of Conduct which says that when it is breached by a public office holder he is to be punished and that punishment can include termination? When is the Deputy Prime Minister going to terminate the services of his colleague, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, as prescribed in the Code?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I say again that the Minister is in full compliance with all of the provisions of the Code of Conduct. The Hon. Member may choose not to believe that. He has his own political reasons for doing so. However, he cannot get around the fact that there has been full compliance.

LOAN NEGOTIATED BY MINISTER'S WIFE

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. Would he tell the House whether he believes he will derive any benefit from the loan negotiated by his wife?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Order! That is—

An Hon. Member: You know better than that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Can I ask the Hon. Member to phrase that question in the context of ministerial responsibility?

Mr. Deans: In the context of ministerial responsibility, does he think he will get any benefit from the loan his wife negotiated?

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Crosbie: It's time for you to resign, Deans.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I explained at the very beginning of Question Period why I cannot allow that question. Does the Hon. Member have another question?

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, let me ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he believes that his Minister will not derive any benefit from the loan negotiated with a company with which he does business and provides financial support?

Mr. Crosbie: That is nonsense.

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Acting Prime Minister): That question is utterly ridiculous. The Hon. Member might as well ask me, if he had a swimming pool in his backyard, whether I would benefit from accepting his invitation to go with him for a dip.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Marchi: But you can't swim, like your former boss.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

An Hon. Member: Where are you going, Ian?

Mr. Broadbent: He's going to think that one through.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

An Hon. Member: He is going home to "sink".

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● (1440)

REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

GRANTS TO MAGNA INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION—PRESS RELEASES

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. His officials have confirmed that press releases are issued whenever government grants are made. I am sure the Minister recognizes that he made the final decision with respect to the three grants totalling \$4 million to Magna Corporation. Did he instruct his staff not to issue press releases with respect to those three specific grants to Magna?