

*Oral Questions***CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY**

ISSUANCE OF CONTRACTS—KICKBACK INVESTIGATION

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Right Hon. Prime Minister. When Members of Parliament reconvened on January 19, at the beginning of this session of Parliament, we were informed of the Oerlikon affair which lead to the Bissonnette investigation. Then we had the Gravel investigation, the Stevens investigation, the Place Vincent Massey investigation, the Peloquin investigation, and a number of others. Today we learn of the Progressive Conservative fund kickback investigation.

My question to the Prime Minister is simply this. When is this going to stop? When is it that we will see a Government that gets away from this messy way of doing business so that we are not doing investigations, and gets on with governing the country as it should be governed?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Monique Landry (Minister of External Relations): Presumably, Mr. Speaker, my colleague is referring to last night's television news report. I should like to tell him that last fall when I was made aware of possible allegations I immediately asked my Department officials to get in touch with the RCMP, and the investigation is now under way.

Mr. Speaker, I might add that if my colleague carefully listened to or read the news report he would know that these allegations have to do with what may have been a deal between two individuals and simply do not involve the Government or CIDA.

[*English*]

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, we have heard it time and time again. We have had investigation after investigation. The news reports say that this situation in terms of making payments goes on with contract after contract.

GOVERNMENT INTEGRITY

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister. The people of Canada are sick and tired of investigation after investigation. They want this nonsense to stop.

When will the Prime Minister do something to start building integrity in the Government and bring this nonsense to a close?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Monique Landry (Minister of External Relations): Mr. Speaker, I might remind my colleague that I said on several occasions that the CIDA contract selection process is quite open and very clear. Last winter I had the opportunity to issue a brochure which was sent to all my colleagues and all businessmen to provide a clear explanation about the contract selection process, and I would urge my colleague to come to

CIDA and see for himself why I am so proud of the way contracts are awarded, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

QUERY CONCERNING PRIME MINISTER'S KNOWLEDGE OF
ALLEGATION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It concerns the same topic, the one reported in the media of a 5 per cent kickback scheme, part of which is to go the Conservative Party as compensation for receiving government contracts.

When was the Prime Minister made aware of the case reported on national television last night? What specific measures did he order his Ministers to undertake to ensure this kind of activity is cleaned up and does not recur in his already tarnished Government?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Monique Landry (Minister of External Relations): Mr. Speaker, I said a moment ago that the RCMP are investigating. Perhaps he ought to wait before passing judgments.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, it is not the system which is at fault, but the people involved.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Prime Minister. On May 26, 1986, in reply to a question I had asked in the House about the 5 per cent kickbacks, we were told that there was no such system and that the Government would not investigate. In view of the new facts which have now come to light, is the Prime Minister willing to request a public inquiry on the contracting policy of his Government and the allegations of kickbacks for the Conservative Party? Will there be a public inquiry, yes or no?

Hon. Monique Landry (Minister of External Relations): Mr. Speaker, I would like to repeat that the contracting process of CIDA is very open and very clear. Since the Hon. Member does not seem to be aware of this, I invite him to come and check at CIDA how contracts are awarded. This is done very honestly and the firms which deserve contracts get them.

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[*English*]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

LETTER CARRIERS' STRIKE—SUSPENSION OF EMPLOYEES

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister who ran for office on the basis of his reputation as a labour negotiator. The Prime