

Parliamentary Employment and Staff Relations Act

Mr. Gauthier: Well, it is true.

Mr. Boudria: Well, it was!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. I really do not care whether or not it was. The question should be directed to the Hon. Member who has just finished speaking. I hope the Hon. Member will direct his comments to the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow). I hope that the Hon. Member for—

Mr. Dick: I did not say a thing until he—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I would hope that the Hon. Member will not interject. We are waiting for a statement from the Hon. Minister and you are causing me a lot of grief.

Mr. Gauthier: You never say anything, Paul.

Mr. Dick: It is true.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North is well versed in the situation involving employees of this House. In my first question I was not questioning the hiring practices. That is a totally different topic. I do not like the kind of system he has described either. However, what we are talking about is the employees' grievances. Over the years, and even today, in the absence of any formal structure, employees on many occasions present their grievances to Members of this House in an attempt to obtain redress. As the Hon. Member has appropriately described, there have been a large number of such injustices in the past, and he has described some of them. Later on in my remarks I intend to spend some time describing some of them as well.

I said earlier that I was an employee of the House of Commons for a little over 14 years, but I was really asking the Hon. Member about how the grievance procedure is working now. I see a deterioration in the morale of employees from what it was a year and a half ago when I came back to this building, compared to what it was during the 1960s and 1970s. Then there was at least a system, although informal and improperly structured and not the best, where employees could attempt to obtain redress. That is not the case now. That is really what I was questioning, not the hiring practices, because of course they are indefensible.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, let me just reply very briefly by saying to the Hon. Member that there will be problems as long as the system of grievances is informal and not based on a precise set of rules and regulations. If the person who has a grievance goes to a Member of Parliament or a superior in the Public Service, if that grievance is not settled to the satisfaction of the employee, and I am sure many times it is not, and I am sure there are times when it is not because the grievance was not justified, then there will be problems. If you do not have a system based on law and procedures which are clearly

outlined in advance, there will be a great deal of dissatisfaction with the decisions made. That is another reason that it is important that we have a law which makes it clear what the employees are entitled to, what they can do if they are not satisfied, and everything else that real collective bargaining gives to employees.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The period for questions and comments has now expired.

[English]

Pursuant to an order made earlier this day, the House will now revert to Tabling of Documents.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING IMASCO BID TO TAKE OVER GENSTAR

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 67(2), I have the honour to lay upon the Table, in both official languages, copies of certain correspondence relating to the bid to take over Genstar by Imasco.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The House will now proceed to Statements by Ministers.

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FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

IMASCO BID TO TAKE OVER GENSTAR—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, the proposed takeover of Genstar Corporation by Imasco Enterprises has received considerable attention from Members of this House and the media. The issues which have been raised are important and I commend Hon. Members for their concern. The Government's responsibility is to protect the public interest in the financial sector. I know that Hon. Members share that concern. That is why I proposed, and the Government is carrying forward, a comprehensive review of financial institution regulation. That is why public notice of impending legislation, which is now before this House as Bill C-103, was given last November 29.

● (1640)

The House is well aware that regulatory efforts to protect the public interest and preserve financial stability in the financial sector raise complex and challenging issues. These include self-dealing, increased concentration of ownership, links between non-financial and financial companies, reduction