

by without correcting the record? Surely, the people of Canada have the right to know clearly what the policy is. Surely, the Government has an obligation to correct some misinformation which the Secretary of State for External Affairs left on the books some ten months ago?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is making an argument, I believe, on phraseology, not on substance. As to the substance, I have conceded that the Cruise is what is at the back of this matter. When the Hon. Members opposite want to argue and ask questions about whether we should eventually test the Cruise, I am prepared to engage in debate on that subject. Whether the debate should have started sooner, for instance, when the Minister said this, I am prepared to say that maybe it should have, but maybe it was the NDP who were not attentive enough to what the Minister said then.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: Well, if they were, Madam Speaker—

Madam Speaker: Order. Order. We are really entering into debate, and we can do that another time.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

APPLICATION OF MINISTERIAL CONDUCT GUIDELINES

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister, a supplementary to those asked by the Leader of the Opposition. The Prime Minister indicated in answer to the Leader of the Opposition that the behaviour of Mr. Gillespie was honourable. I would like to read to the Prime Minister very briefly from his guidelines of April 28, 1980, which apply to former Ministers. Within a period of two years after leaving office Ministers should not, "lobby for or on behalf of any person or commercial corporation before any Department or agency for which they were responsible on an on-going basis during the last two years of their participation in the Ministry."

Given that Mr. Gillespie clearly was in violation of these guidelines, does the Prime Minister want to reconsider his answer to the Leader of the Opposition respecting the propriety of the current Minister of Finance when, in his role as Minister of Energy, he violated the guidelines for on-going Ministers in signing this deal with a former Minister who, himself, was not behaving according to the guidelines set down as minimal acceptable behaviour for former Ministers of the Crown? Would the Prime Minister care to answer that question?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, with respect, to the current Leader of the Opposition, I suggest that that is a more relevant question. Let us see when

the contract was signed and when the Minister resigned. If it was a period of more than two years—

Mr. Nielsen: June 30, 1980.

Mr. Trudeau: June 30th?

Mr. Nielsen: 1980.

Mr. Trudeau: 1980?

Madam Speaker: Order. Order, please. Hon. Members today on both sides of the House are speaking to each other. This is not what is to take place in the course of the Question Period—questions, brief; and answers, brief. The Hon. Member for Calgary Centre.

QUERY RESPECTING RATIONALE FOR SIGNING CAPE BRETON COAL AGREEMENT

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): I will accept the Prime Minister's indication that he intends to examine this transaction in view of this obvious violation of the guidelines.

Madam Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Minister is aware that this agreement provides for Alastair Gillespie and Associates to make a profit of \$750,000, three-quarters of a million dollars, on a \$25,000 investment. He is also aware that his own officials in the Department advised against this deal on a technical basis as a waste of money. Forgetting about the conflict of interest guidelines in dealing with a Minister who should not have been out there lobbying on his own behalf, and signing deals with that particular individual, in view of that advice from his officials, and in view of this extraordinary profit for a lobbying effort, influence peddling, almost—perhaps it is—could the Minister indicate what rationale other than being kind to your friends led to the Government signing this agreement?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, in the preamble to his question the Hon. Member said I undertook to examine this. I believe we should get the answer on the record right now. The Hon. Member quoted a guideline which indicates a two-year period during which Ministers would not deal with matters of their former portfolios. Was it two years or not? If I am reminded correctly with the figures given by the Leader of the Opposition, the deal was signed June 30, not 1980 as he just said, but 1981. The Minister stopped being a Minister at the beginning of June, 1979. Therefore, it is more than two years, Madam Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Two years and a couple of days.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: I can see them all laughing, Madam Speaker. So what are they going to do, take the guidelines and say they were followed, "but we in the Opposition do not like the way