

Oral Questions

Mr. Broadbent: It is not necessarily a question of integrity. Since the Prime Minister has come back to the very specific issue that is involved here, I want to ask him if the guidelines that he has promised to bring before the House, or at least announce in the House, would have made it impossible for a contract to be awarded to a close relative of a Minister of the Crown, i.e., would the kind of decision that was made in the case of the Minister of Finance be possible under the new guidelines that he is now going to bring in?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend asks (a) a hypothetical question *ex post facto*. I can assure my hon. friend that the guidelines that will be brought in, as they properly should be, will be the most rigorous and demanding ever placed before the House of Commons.

REQUEST FOR EARLY INTRODUCTION OF GUIDELINES

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister's record is about 99 per cent solid in the House for not answering the question. Presuming that the new guidelines about contracts are going to be stringent enough to exclude the possibility of a future mistake of the kind that has just been made, instead of blaming the Opposition and blaming the press in a free society for doing their job, why does the Prime Minister not admit his mistake and bring in the guidelines right away?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, maybe I have a 99 per cent record, but we know why the Hon. Member is at 19 per cent.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: You are wrong again.

Mr. Mulroney: Just keep it up. Every day you are sinking like a stone, and I love it. The only thing worse than a socialist is a sanctimonious socialist. The Canadians have had it up to the gills with you. The patronage practised in Manitoba and Saskatchewan makes Maurice Duplessis look like a choir boy.

● (1430)

In point of fact there was no conflict, but my response to my hon. friend is as well that new guidelines, more vigorous guidelines, and more demanding guidelines, are required and will be implemented. I think they will do honour to the House and will satisfy the very serious requirements of my hon. friend.

EMPLOYMENT OF DOUGLAS ROBSON

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have another question concerning the Wilson family compact and it is directed to the Minister of Finance. Yesterday the Prime Minister told the Hon. Member for Humber-

Port au Port-St. Barbe the following, as reported on page 4019 of *Hansard*:

The Minister of Finance broke no guidelines and he broke no law.

Would the Minister now confirm what I know from speaking to the Deputy Registrar-General, which is that Mr. Robson never signed a conflict of interest document when he worked for the Government in 1979, nor did he sign one when he worked for the Government again in 1984, as he should have? Why did the Minister of Finance neglect to request from Mr. Robson a signature on a document regarding conflict of interest, before he hired him?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, let me make one thing clear. The contract that has been referred to by many Members today was signed by the Minister of Supply and Services and not by myself. In response to the question regarding the conduct of Mr. Robson, he took an oath of secrecy back in 1979. That is the oath of secrecy under which he has been operating.

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[Translation]

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

LAWSON MURRAY COMPANY—ADJUDICATION OF CONTRACTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Supply and Services concerning the Wilson family compact.

Yesterday, the Minister of Finance informed the House that he did not know whether Lawson Murray Limited had been awarded further contracts by the Government of Canada since September 4 of last year.

Could the Minister of Supply and Services now inform the House whether the Government has negotiated, either directly or indirectly, any further agreements or contracts with Lawson Murray since September 4 of last year?

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, last fall the Bank of Canada asked my Department to supply an agency to carry on this program of advertising marketable government bonds. We selected from among the firms that we know, trust, and in which we have confidence, the firm of Lawson Murray to undertake work amounting to a total contract of about \$200,000 for a fee of \$30,000.

That firm replied to us on February 14 by way of letter saying that the Government has been wasting hundreds of thousands of dollars on this program, that the previous Government had been wasting all that money and that it was unnecessary. I think that that is laudable behaviour. I am very proud of the performance of Lawson Murray in this regard. I think I did an outstanding job in hiring that firm for the Government. I might say that there is an additional small contract we gave the firm in March, and any time I can give a