

All Canadians are threatened by this thoughtless and irresponsible decision which gives obvious preference to a Conservative supporter from central Canada.

Canadian media, officials and citizens have adamantly protested the recent cuts to the CBC. These people are now watching a continuing government vendetta to kill the CBC from the inside.

It is time that someone stops this barrage of hatred against our national institutions. It is time that this government provided the CBC with the money to do the job properly. And it is definitely time to remove John Crispo from the board that he was put on without any consultation.

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NATIONAL GALLERY

Mr. Felix Holtmann (Portage—Interlake): Mr. Speaker, the meat dress at our National Gallery is placing our artistic community in the slaughterhouse.

Politicians across the country have been barbecued for acting like hot dogs over the dress, and have been the butt of some criticism on the matter. Newspaper columnists have turned critics of the steak apparel into hamburger and many have been roasted for daring to question the appropriateness of meat art.

The issue is not whether or not tainted meat on a hanger is art or simply beef jerky.

The average Canadian who is concerned about bringing home the bacon sees the sausages who run the National Gallery as living too high on the hog. While the gallery openly displays its rib-eyes, some Canadians in soup kitchens remain picking over the bones.

• (1410)

Mr. Speaker, the good book says that you cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, but a Canadian artist has now proved that you can make a dress out of \$300 worth of flank steak.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, all Canadians should know that conflict of interest still

exists. This government will just never learn. On March 5, Telesat Canada, a virtual Crown corporation with Canadian taxpayers as 52 per cent shareholders, filed a secret appeal asking cabinet to ride roughshod, by granting higher rates than the CRTC had granted.

So far, we have uncovered at least three cases of conflict; first, senior government officials are party to this appeal, as Telesat board members, while they also act supposedly as unbiased senior advisors to Cabinet. Second, in reviewing this appeal, the government could manipulate the value of Telesat shares to suit its announced privatization plan.

But it gets better. Third, Telesat has coincidentally, just days after filing its appeal, hired prominent Conservatives Bill Jarvis, former PC party president, Bill Fox, the PM's former press attaché, among others, to help persuade their former bosses, the cabinet, to up Telesat's rates.

Does the Prime Minister not recognize these glaring cases of conflict of interest? Will the Prime Minister end these conflicts today and have this review sent to a more appropriate forum, the CRTC or the Federal Court? In all decency, will the Prime Minister do just that?

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[Translation]

CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS FROM QUEBEC

Mr. Nic Leblanc (Longueuil): Mr. Speaker, in 1981, the Liberal members from Quebec were called gutless and sheep. That is inaccurate and unfair to them. When you are a member of a Canadian caucus, your only option is to keep quiet. You must avoid shocking and disturbing the members from other provinces. The Conservatives from Quebec are in the same situation. Today I found a name for them: the quiet ones from Quebec in Ottawa. I say that without malice. The Conservatives from Quebec work hard. They are preparing all sorts of constitutional projects. But when the time comes to talk about them, they are very quiet. I admit that the Conservative members from Quebec have the right to say nothing, but I doubt that is an effective way to defend Quebec's interests in Ottawa.