

Oral Questions

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): But the Leader of the Opposition will not defend the Speaker. Shame.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Prime Minister want to complete his answer briefly, please?

Mr. Mulroney: Sir, it should be noted that the Leader of the Opposition will defend an NDPer but he will not defend the Speaker against a vicious attack by—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Ouellet: Withdraw that.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Withdraw that remark.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for Willowdale.

Mr. Ouellet: Just a minute!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nunziata: That's the new civility!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Of course the comments about the Chair are out of order, but there is nothing unparliamentary requiring the Chair to have anything withdrawn.

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ABORTION**HOSPITAL ABORTION COMMITTEE PRACTICES—INQUEST JURY'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. John Ostrom (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Recently an Ottawa coroner's jury condemned the abortion practices of the Ottawa Civic Hospital when that particular hospital apparently approved an abortion after the abortion had taken place, and it cost the young lady her life. Will the Minister initiate an investigation into this serious breach of procedure? Are any changes being contemplated on the basis of the jury recommendations to the Minister?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the case which the Hon. Member cites is a very regrettable situation. A similar question was also answered by the Minister of Justice earlier. The recommendations, as I understand them, go to the Health Minister and Attorney General of the province, in this case the Province of Ontario. I think all of us in the House, regardless of what side of that difficult social issue we might be on, expect those committees to function within the ambit of the law. That was not done, and I would hope that the people responsible for those

committees will take note of the coroner's report which was very specific.

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[Translation]

PUBLIC WORKS**REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO MINISTER'S ASSISTANT WORKING IN MONTREAL**

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In an interview on the TVA network on May 15, the Minister of Public Works said, in referring to contracts, that he had no hesitation in showing his gratitude to the people that deserved it. Can the Prime Minister confirm that Mr. Lessard, the Minister's political adviser who works at the Montreal office, was put there to do just that: to show gratitude to Conservatives who deserved it, in other words, to those who contributed to the Prime Minister's election campaign and to those who followed the procedure recommended by the Hon. Member for Quebec East? Is that what he is supposed to do?

[English]

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the question which the Hon. Member asks was answered yesterday by the Minister of Public Works. If the Hon. Member refers to page 13412 of *Hansard* he will find the Minister of Public Works was pleased to inform all Members of the House of Commons who were having to cope with the lack of information and often inadequate services that he had decided to post a departmental representative in Montreal who will be able to provide more and better information and services for all Members. I am sure all Hon. Members appreciate more information and more services being made available on behalf of the Government by the Minister of Public Works.

MINISTER'S ASSISTANT

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, that is interesting. I wonder whether the Acting Minister could respond to the comment of Mr. Lessard in an interview when he said that there were 57 Conservatives who knew nothing about the routine of the federal Government and that it was his job to help them. Does he think that that follows through on what the Minister said yesterday? Will he not admit that he is a political hack? Will the Prime Minister do the right thing, dismiss the individual, and tell the Minister of Public Works to get his hands out of the taxpayers' cookie jar?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member makes aspersions about contracting and tendering done by Public Works. If he really cares about how contracting and tendering are done, he could refer to Chapter 310, Appendix F of the Treasury Board Administration Policy Manual, the same policy manual used by the previous Liberal administration.