

REASONS FOR APPOINTMENT

Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston): Mr. Speaker, the people of Canada are not laughing because they were hoodwinked by the Conservative Party on the issue of patronage. They said it was wrong then, but now they are saying it is right.

The question is, why brother Peter in this particular case? I would like the secretary of State for External Affairs to stand up and speak for himself.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: He has no jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker: Order!

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Speaker: Order! order! I can stand here until all Members on both sides quieten down. May I remind the Member for the record that questions to the Ministry are put in their capacity as Ministers of their Departments. That is the only question that is appropriate in the House. I simply remind the Member of that.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): He doesn't care about the rules.

Mr. Nunziata: Would the Minister not agree that Peter Clark, the brother of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, was given the government hand-out only because of the brotherly relationship, and only because he is a loyal Tory fund raiser? Would he not agree that this is a blatant and obvious conflict of interest, and Tory patronage?

● (1440)

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, it ill behooves a member of a Party that fired 26 Liberal MPs onto the bench and onto various positions in the Civil Service, including the Livestock Feed Board, which is where they belong, to question the appointment of legal agents. This is not patronage; this is the appointment of a lawyer to carry out certain very involved legal matters, to assist the Department in involved legal matters concerning the Olympics.

It is not patronage. The Secretary of State for External Affairs probably knew nothing about it, and I do not intend to penalize the brother of the Secretary of State for External Affairs just because he is the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

An Hon. Member: What about Sheila's mother?

Mr. Crosbie: Is she a lawyer?

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for New Westminster-Coquitlam.

Ms. Jewett: Talk about the pot calling the kettle black. The Liberals are just jealous, obviously.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Oral Questions

BONN ECONOMIC SUMMIT

UNITED STATES EMBARGO ON NICARAGUA—CANADIAN POSITION

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): My question is directed to the Prime Minister. I wish to return to the position he took at the Summit regarding what is really America's disastrous policy *vis-à-vis* Nicaragua and the trade embargo. The Prime Minister said that he did not even discuss it with the American President because he had covered Canada's position on American policy in Nicaragua at the Quebec City Summit.

In view of the fact that this has taken place since the Summit, why did the Prime Minister not raise, as forcefully as possible with the President, the really disastrous consequences of the trade embargo not only for Canada but for the United States and, above all, Nicaragua? Why did he not press the President on this issue? Will he still do so before the embargo goes into effect tomorrow?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I raised the question of the American actions regarding Nicaragua, at length and vigorously, with the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Schultz. I indicated to him, as I indicated publicly earlier that, while that might be American policy, it was not Canadian and it was not policy that Canada could accept.

I expressed our concern about the impact that might have upon the Contadora process which we believe is the most likely process to bring stability to that region. I made it quite clear that Canada expected assurances that there would be no effect, upon Canadian exports, of the American sanctions.

Before leaving Bonn I received from the Secretary of State, and my colleague, the Minister of Finance, received from the Secretary of the Treasury, assurances that the American actions will not affect Canadian exports to Nicaragua.

We intend to carry on the policy that we had carried on toward Nicaragua before. We will contribute, and continue to maintain our trade relations. My colleague, the Minister for External Relations, will continue the trip that she has planned to that region in June.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER INTERVENE

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, that is all very well, but we want to know why the Prime Minister did not, and will not today, say directly and forcefully to the President of the United States that the policy being followed is disastrous not just from the point of view of our interests but the point of view of the security of this whole hemisphere, by the escalation of East-West conflict in throwing Nicaragua into the arms of the Eastern bloc? Why does he not say it forcefully now, and why did he not do so at the time?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the position of Canada was made forcefully at the time. The Prime Minister and the President