

Tabling of Documents

hires PMs pal, \$200,000 job follows". This involves the Prime Minister's pal, Sam Wakim, apparently a former classmate at St. Francis Xavier University. Is this type of thing covered? We had a preliminary review of those documents and we do not see this type of arrangement covered at all.

All I will say, Mr. Speaker, is that we were not given the time to review these documents thoroughly. We will give them a close study. We suspect that they may well be more cosmetic camouflage. In any event, the Government will have the co-operation of this side of the House if there is any sincerity at all on its part.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, among the many things said by the Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Turner) which were accurate, was the fact that we did not receive advance notice with regard to the tabling of the documents here today. For that reason I am responding on behalf of my leader and my caucus. I would like to begin by saying that at first glance—which is really all we have been able to have—it seems as if the guidelines will go further than the guidelines which previously existed. It seems as if what the Government is intent on doing will provide more restrictive guidelines and will bring about a better code of behaviour than existed under the guidelines which are now in place.

The question, of course, will be—as is now the case—will these guidelines be adhered to any more closely than the guidelines which are presently in place? It has been a question asked in the House of Commons for the last five years. The guidelines are interpreted, it seems, to satisfy the mood of the government of the day. I want to say that if in establishing new guidelines we can have some assurance that there will be a common interpretation by everyone in the House of Commons as to how they are to be enforced, then I think we will have gone a long way towards solving what was a very difficult and acrimonious period. And that was from the early part of 1980 into the early part of this administration.

● (1520)

I also want to say that it strikes me, at first glance, that these guidelines may well put in place a regime which will preclude another orgy of patronage such as occurred at the end of the last Liberal Government. I hope that that is the case. I hope that as a result of these guidelines this Government will not be in a position, at the time of its defeat, to appoint any number of its inadequate back-benchers and hangers-on to positions of a permanent nature in the Public Service or government agencies.

I also want to say that the performance of this Government until now in its appointment of friends and cronies and old pals to political patronage positions is not something to be proud of. I admit that there two or three notable exceptions, as the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) frequently points out, but when you compare those to the thousands of appointments made, this is hardly a record to be proud of. Therefore, I was

pleased to note that the opportunity will be there in the future for Members of Parliament to review retroactively the qualifications and quality of the appointments made by this Government after it assumed office on September 4, 1984.

Having said that, I hope the House of Commons and the Senate will take seriously, if you will, the request of the Prime Minister and that the Speakers of both Houses will in fact review in consultation whatever is required to be reviewed in order to determine the appropriate behaviour for Members in addition to those who happen to be Ministers of the Crown. However, based on past performance, I am not too optimistic about what the future holds. I look at the Government House Leader (Mr. Hnatyshyn) and the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen) and I remember the long debates we had in the House over what was appropriate behaviour when the Liberals were in government regarding certain of their former Cabinet colleagues who engaged in business after they left Government. I remember the way this Government castigated the previous Government for its despicable abuse of both patronage and entrée to the Civil Service using powers that had been gained while in office.

I am hoping to see an end to this kind of thing. I note that it is referred to but I am not quite sure how it is going to be dealt with. Therefore, I think the proof will lie with the passage of time. Once we see the more definitive description of how we intend to implement and enforce, then perhaps we will have more confidence. However, I say to the Prime Minister that were we to base our confidence on the performance of the past year, it would be pretty shaky.

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PETITIONS

CALL FOR PASSAGE OF BILL C-49

Mr. Rob Nicholson (Niagara Falls): Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege as a Member of Parliament to present a petition signed by almost 2,000 residents of the City of Niagara Falls who, because of the increase in the incidence of prostitution and associated violence, have asked that this House immediately pass Bill C-49.

HIGH WATER LEVELS IN LAKE SUPERIOR

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by 247 of my constituents, including residents of the Township of Shuniah, Amethyst Beach, as well as members of the Island Beach Campers' Association. They are seriously concerned about damage to their property caused by high water levels in Lake Superior. This damage is due in part to unseasonably heavy rainfall, but it is also due to actions by the Board of Control of the International Joint Commission in keeping the water level of Lake Superior high to preserve properties in the lower lakes. Your petitioners humbly pray that the Government of Canada