

character assassination. There is no honour in unresearched personal attacks on members and their families. There is no honour in unsubstantiated smear tactics.

Let me summarize this matter briefly. In 1980, I purchased a 50 per cent share of a six-unit apartment house at 504 Albert Street in Ottawa. On May 20, 1982, I signed over the ownership of the building to Mr. Ken Gibson, an Ottawa lawyer and owner of the remaining 50 per cent share, retaining my portion in trust. That was in 1982.

Upon becoming a cabinet Minister in the fall of 1984, I disclosed in writing my interest to the Assistant Deputy Registrar General. This is and has been a matter of public record. By January of this year I agreed, and immediately notified the Assistant Deputy Registrar General, of my intention to sell.

As part of the transaction, Mr. Gibson asked for a six month delay of payment from closing to August 14, 1987, which I also accepted. Upon the advice of my attorneys, I secured the balance of the purchase price due on August 14, 1987, by taking a second and third mortgage on the two properties in question, on a non-interest bearing basis. At no time did I make an interest-bearing loan or any other type of loan to Mr. Gibson or to anyone else.

On the date of closing, I was away on government business. In fact, I had the pleasure of representing the Government of Canada in Cape Breton for the Canada Winter Games and, therefore, gave my wife a power of attorney, as I have often done in the past. I regret also that Hon. Members had to drag my wife into this matter.

I want to emphasize, Mr. Speaker, that as always I kept the Assistant Deputy Registrar General informed of my activities prior, during and after the transaction. In fact, part of the purchase agreement which I intend to table—it is a purchase agreement which, if the Hon. Member had asked, would have been made available to him—reads, in part, that “on closing Jelinek shall deliver to Gibson, among other things”:

A letter from the office of the appropriate official of the Government of Canada confirming that Jelinek has made full disclosure of his interest in this transaction and that the within transaction is in no way viewed as a conflict of interest or an inappropriate involvement.

That letter was dated and received by me on February 12, 1987, from Mr. Robert Boyle, the Assistant Deputy Registrar General, five full days prior to closing.

With consent, Mr. Speaker, I would like at this time to table both of these documents to which I have just referred.

Mr. Speaker: I think I can indicate to the Hon. Minister that the documents can be sent to the Table.

Mr. Jelinek: Mr. Speaker, this information and all other pertinent information has always been publicly available and any responsible individual, Member of Parliament or otherwise, should have availed himself of this information prior to making unnecessary and unfounded accusations that damaged

not only my reputation but, more important to me, that damaged the reputation of my family.

What happened yesterday during Question Period by the Opposition therefore is once again a totally irresponsible example and a clear abuse of parliamentary procedures which must be corrected. This has gone on far too long.

These are the facts, Mr. Speaker, facts which the Members could have obtained for themselves, facts which, had they bothered to check, surely would have kept them from smearing myself, my family and putting in bad light all members, yes, all Members of this House of Commons.

Everyone in public life expects to be criticized from time to time based on our policies, opinions or statements. I am no exception. I have been here long enough and I accept criticism, especially constructive criticism. But what this House of Commons must no longer permit is the use of this Chamber for unfair and vicious personal attacks with no foundation or justification. Parliamentary immunity, a time honoured and necessary requirement for the parliamentary system, is being cynically abused.

Notwithstanding, I am, and will be, watching carefully all statements made by Members outside the House with a view to taking whatever legal action is necessary. Believe me, I will be watching so carefully that if there is any justification for taking legal action I will be doing just that, because I have had it up to here with you guys on the other side.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jelinek: Neither I, nor any Member of this House, should be subjected to this outrage any longer, Mr. Speaker. I am proud of my name and proud of my family. I deeply resent being wrongly slandered and having my parliamentary privileges so blatantly abused. I am angered by how deeply the reputation of all members, and this House itself, is being tarnished by the irresponsible conduct of a few. Every time a smear is made—this is a big problem—no matter how groundless, unfortunately, some of the mud sticks. The stigma remains, and that has happened in this case.

● (1200)

It is for that reason, and because my personal privileges as a Member of Parliament have indeed been abused, I believe I have a prima facie case of privilege. If you, Sir, find that I do indeed have a prima facie case of privilege, I would move, seconded by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Mazankowski):

That of the allegations made by the Member for Ottawa Centre as found at page 5094 Hansard dated April 13, 1987 be referred to the Standing Committee on Elections, Privileges and Procedures with the usual power to call for papers, persons and records and to report by May 31, 1987.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment on the statement made by the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport (Mr. Jelinek), and also