

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister is misstating the facts. I resigned every corporate directorship on June 30, the day I assumed the Prime Ministership of the country. That is a fact, and he knows that.

#### FORMER OFFICE HOLDERS

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** I would like to draw to the attention of the Prime Minister the guidelines from Appendix 2, Post-Employment Guidelines for Ministers and, by reference, their staff. In any official dealings with former office holders Ministers "must ensure that they do not provide grounds or the appearance of grounds for allegations of improper influence, privileged access, or preferential treatment". Does the Prime Minister not feel that this particular guideline has been broken?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, my right hon. friend raises the question of appearance, with which we must deal. I acknowledge that. There will be further guidelines filed very shortly which will tend to eliminate even that possibility of appearance.

I point out to my right hon. friend that after he became Leader of the Liberal Party and Prime Minister elect, he was given secret and confidential briefings. I never once protested because of my full confidence in his integrity, notwithstanding the appearance of a conflict. I hope he would extend the same generosity to the Minister of Finance today.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister knows better than that. He knows that when I became Prime Minister elect I instructed the Clerk of the Privy Council to show me no documents that would provide a possibility of conflict with any of my earlier associations until they had been shed and I had assumed office. He knows that, and he can check that with the Clerk of the Privy Council.

#### PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** The Prime Minister's own conflict guidelines have been broken in two respects. The Minister admitted that he knew of this situation and discussed it with his brother-in-law, and yet did not stop it. In the first place there was preferential treatment given to his brother-in-law. Second, his former executive assistant, vice-president on leave from Lawson Murray, Mr. Robson, was given the appearance of preferential treatment after leaving the office of the Minister. What does the Prime Minister intend to do about this?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, what we are doing, as was my tendency at the time, given my understanding of my right hon. friend's long tradition of honorability, was of course to give him the benefit of the doubt. When we came in we inherited the same guidelines. We have since improved upon them. They will be filed with the House. I think it is the kind of document of which my right hon. friend would be quite proud. We did not do it overnight. I

#### Oral Questions

raised no questions at the time, notwithstanding questions which were being raised elsewhere, because of my feeling for this matter.

I can give my right hon. friend the assurance that the integrity of the Minister of Finance is absolutely unquestioned. I will acknowledge that even any appearance must be dealt with. This we propose to do in the new guidelines which we will publish shortly.

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[Translation]

#### THE ADMINISTRATION

##### ALLEGED PATRONAGE IN NEW BRUNSWICK

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and concerns an absolutely shameless case of patronage in New Brunswick. Recently, the Minister fired ten wharfingers employed in Shippegan and other ports along the Acadian coast.

In a letter dated April 12, the Minister released the wharfingers from their duties effective March 31. The injustice was not only flagrant but also retroactive!

Does the Minister intend to undo this example of political interference in the Public Service or are we going to see further appointments of Progressive Conservatives to these positions?

[English]

**Hon. John A. Fraser (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, I know my hon. friend would want to know that any changes made in the case which he has raised have been as a consequence of consultation with Members of Parliament. If there has been some injustice which the Hon. Member can bring to my attention, I would, of course, be prepared to discuss it.

##### REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, these particular 10 wharfingers won their jobs in an open competition. The local MP has told them that their replacements will start work on May 1. Is the Minister prepared to investigate this matter with a view to ensuring that these people can keep the jobs which they won fairly and squarely?

**Hon. John A. Fraser (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend's representation may not be completely accurate as to numbers or the reference to "fairly and squarely". As I said, if my hon. friend has representations to make about some undue injustice, I would be prepared to discuss it with him.