

*Supply*

**Mr. Lalonde:** We can't change the guidelines. We respect the guidelines.

**Mr. Deans:** I can only suggest to the Minister that I believe what has happened is that, having been in power for such a long time, the Liberals sense, perhaps, that whatever they do is right, regardless of whether it is right or not. And I resent it because it is quite clear that Alastair Gillespie violated the guidelines, and it is clearly stated that that was a concern of the Ministry officials. So they then altered the Treasury Board orders to allow him to do what he was doing, with impunity.

**Mr. Dingwall:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans). He talked about fairness in his speech and, being a fair-minded person, perhaps he would agree with me that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde), as well as the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. MacEachen), are not stupid individuals. And if they were to try to give a benefit to, or confer a benefit on Alastair Gillespie, which would hopefully not be noticed by Members of this Chamber or other Chambers, can he explain to me why then would the Deputy Prime Minister and the Premier of the Province issue press releases, go to a press conference, be televised on CBC, be spoken about in the Nova Scotia House of Assembly with Mr. Gillespie, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Premier of the Province? Can he explain that?

While he is on his feet, Mr. Speaker, would he explain why it has taken his Party 23 months to raise the issue, only raising this issue after the Conservative Party raised it? They sit for two days in waiting and then raise the question. Would he answer those two particular matters?

**Mr. Deans:** Thank you. I will answer the last one first. The time involved is totally irrelevant. The question surely is that if there was a violation, then whenever one finds the violation, one must raise it publicly. If it took 22 years to find the violation, it is still a violation. It does not alter the fact.

● (1700)

With regard to why the Deputy Prime Minister sat on the platform and why the Minister of Finance did what he did, the answer to that is very difficult to find. That is why this whole debate is taking place. We frankly question their judgment on the matter.

**Miss Bégin:** We question yours.

**Mr. Deans:** We think that, along with the loud-mouth Minister of Health, they probably made a mistake and were given bad advice. Perhaps, with the benefit of hindsight, they might see that what they did, in light of the circumstances that are now clear to everyone and with all of the documentation that is now available, was an error. In making that error, they put their own particular positions in jeopardy.

That is what ministerial responsibility is all about. When you become a Minister—if you do—you will find that everything that happens in that Ministry is your responsibility. As was said by a forced to retire British Member of the House of Commons who was in the Cabinet, he accepts the credit when

his department does something right, and he accepts the blame when they do something wrong. In this instance they did something wrong.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order. The time provided for questions has expired. Debate.

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Lincoln):** Mr. Speaker, in 45 minutes we will be asked to vote on a non-confidence motion for the supply period ending March 26, 1983. It is significant that the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent), in putting his reference to a lack of moral standards and the need to refer the issue before us to the Deputy Registrar General, attached it to a vote of non-confidence, knowing full well that it would be defeated. Nobody in their right mind would expect the Government to bring on its own defeat simply to refer to the Deputy Registrar General an issue that the House thinks should be referred there.

Immediately we have the hypocrisy of the Opposition in attaching that to a vote of non-confidence. It shows that deep down they do not want it to go there. That was obvious from the questions today. It is obvious that we will win this vote of confidence. As usual, they wanted the best of all worlds, an opportunity, a day if you like, to belabour the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) once more. That is fine. I understand the role of the Opposition.

**Mr. Speyer:** How do you?

**Mr. Mackasey:** You are new here and a little stupid, and that does not help.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order. I would request the Hon. Member for Lincoln (Mr. Mackasey) to address his remarks to the Chair.

**Mr. Mackasey:** Mr. Speaker, I must apologize to my hon. friend. I really mean that sincerely. I do not really appreciate heckling, and it is one of the things that I have not done in my 20 years here, any more than I have had to attack anybody in this House personally. There is something about the House of Commons that is rather important to me. I do not for a moment pretend that it is not important to me or to others. Truthfully, I can point out 10, 12 or 15 Members, including the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor), who understand the House of Commons. They understand that sooner or later in our whole parliamentary process the House of Commons becomes the arena, the centre of the whole parliamentary system. It is not the committees, not the newspapers, but the House of Commons. I see the Hon. Member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) wants to get closer to the action and the excitement. As a Member of the House of Commons he has mastered, as I have, the ability to use the same speech on all occasions.

It is rather ridiculous, and would be almost amusing if it were not sad, that at a time when the country is concerned about unemployment, the future, the need to get on with a new budget, and concerned with cleaning up the business of the