

mine, received a letter on February 12, 1981, from the Solicitor General which I should like to read into the record. The letter reads as follows:

As minister responsible for the riding of Broadview-Greenwood, I am pleased to send the attached cheque in the amount of \$15,568 on behalf of my colleague, the Hon. Jim Fleming, Minister of State for Multiculturalism, in respect of the submission you presented to him for approval under the multiculturalism grants program.

With all best wishes for a successful endeavour,

Yours very truly,  
Bob Kaplan, P.C., M.P.

I must say that I had no idea prior to last night when my constituent came to my office asking me whether it was true that the Solicitor General was in fact responsible for Broadview-Greenwood riding, since this constituent was labouring under the illusion that I was the Member of Parliament who was responsible for his interests. I said no, I was not aware of the fact. He then showed me the letter which I read.

I should like to put to the House and to you, Madam Speaker, that we have here an application for a grant under a program which has nothing to do with politics. It is a program which has to do with English as a second language. It is not political, it is not tainted by NDP, Liberal or Conservative politics, and as soon as it touches the Minister of State for Multiculturalism (Mr. Fleming), I would have anticipated and indeed expected, since this is the real world of politics, that the Minister of State for Multiculturalism would have given out the cheque and would have given me notice, as happens with every other program with which I am acquainted, of the fact that this money was sent out. Instead of this, we find now that the Solicitor General has been appointed the "minister responsible for the riding of Broadview-Greenwood".

What is the nature, Madam Speaker, of those onerous and difficult responsibilities for Broadview-Greenwood?

**An hon. Member:** Sending out a cheque.

**Mr. Peterson:** To make up for your inadequacies.

**Mr. Rae:** That is a nice thing to say. The only inadequacy that I have in the eyes of this government is that I am not a member of the Liberal Party, and that is the only reason they decided to appoint a minister responsible for my riding. Can the hon. member tell us who the minister responsible for his riding is in Willowdale?

As a Member of Parliament for Broadview-Greenwood, I want to register my state of disbelief that there is a minister masquerading in front of the people of Canada as the minister responsible for Broadview-Greenwood. What other riding is he responsible for? Why are we not allowed to take our own responsibilities and take account of whatever government programs there are? If there is a letter to go out, let it go out from the minister of state to whom my constituent applied rather than from the interloper masquerading as a minister responsible for my riding. If he is indeed the minister responsible for Broadview-Greenwood, why was he not sworn in before the

*Privilege—Mr. Rae*

Governor General and why did he not take his oath of office as Solicitor General and minister responsible for Broadview-Greenwood? He is exercising this privilege on government stationery and government letterhead. He is not describing himself as the Liberal Member of Parliament undermining the NDP Member of Parliament for Broadview-Greenwood; he is describing himself as the minister responsible for Broadview-Greenwood.

Finally, as a matter of pure courtesy, I would have thought that if the Government of Canada is going to nominate ministers responsible for opposition ridings or for all ridings, and obviously ministers responsible for the dispensing of public moneys in an individual constituency, the least they can do is to indicate to the member involved that this is what is happening and tell him that, if he wants to get any money for his constituents, he must go crawling on all fours to the Solicitor General before he can get it.

**Madam Speaker:** Would the Solicitor General (Mr. Kaplan) not want to rise later? I would prefer to recognize the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), following which the minister could reply.

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Madam Speaker, normally I would have preferred to follow the minister. However, I have a similar and related point to the one raised by the hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood (Mr. Rae). He will learn that these things happen when these honourable rascals are in office!

I have a question on the Order Paper asking why the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Munro), who was following the same kind of practices, has set up a constituency office in my riding.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

**Mr. Nielsen:** He has done the same thing in another riding and intends to do it again. The question on the Order Paper asks how many more ministers are setting up constituency offices in ridings which do not have Liberal members. If the Chair finds that the question raised by the hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood is properly based, I would ask the Chair to take into consideration the propriety of ministers of the Crown using taxpayers' money to set up a constituency office in a riding which they do not represent.

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General):** Madam Speaker, I am very glad to have this opportunity to inform the constituents of Broadview-Greenwood who do not know about these responsibilities, which the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has asked me to assume in relation to that riding.

● (1530)

I should say by way of background that all members of the government have been asked to assume similar responsibilities for ridings—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!