

Oral Questions

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have authorized the Secretary of the Cabinet to brief the future Prime Minister of Canada for the purposes of the transition period. I have complete confidence in the Secretary of the Cabinet. I know that he will not put any possibility of conflict of interest in the way of the new Leader of the Liberal Party.

CONTENT OF BRIEFING

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Yellowhead): Mr. Speaker, just so we might be more precise, will the briefing that will be made available to this serving director of Canadian Pacific Limited, Bechtel, Massey-Ferguson, MacMillan-Bloedel and other corporations, contain confidential information, confidential Cabinet documents?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I would think it would, Mr. Speaker. I would hope it would.

POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Yellowhead): Mr. Speaker, will the Prime Minister tell the House of Commons whether the Minister of Transport will be discussing any aspect of transportation policy with Mr. Turner while Mr. Turner remains a director of Canadian Pacific Limited?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the Minister of Transport is going to discuss with Mr. Turner.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Yellowhead): Mr. Speaker, in the interest of respecting the spirit of conflict of interest guidelines, will the Prime Minister ensure that no confidential Cabinet information is made available to a serving director of those Canadian corporations or other corporations while that person remains a director of those corporations?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I believe that Mr. Turner has offered his resignations to those corporations as a director of those corporations.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: They have not accepted them.

Mr. Trudeau: I am sure they plan to accept them. Therefore, I do not see what the former Leader of the Opposition is worried about.

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO SEAGRAM CORPORATION
CHAIRMAN

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance I will direct my question to the Acting Minister of Finance. As he will know, the Chairman of Seagram Corporation, in reference to the reappointment of Mr. Turner to the board of Seagram

Corporation during the Liberal Leadership campaign, said: "From a Seagram's standpoint it would not be a bad thing to have a future Prime Minister on our board".

Would the Acting Minister of Finance assure the House that in any briefing given to Mr. Turner, no material dealt with will have any relevance to matters which could affect the profitability of that very large and powerful corporation, Seagram's, of which Mr. Turner continues to be a member of the board?

Hon. Roy MacLaren (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I do not know of any such material going to Mr. Turner.

DIRECTORSHIP OF MASSEY-FERGUSON

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. In view of the fact that Mr. Turner is a member of the board of Massey-Ferguson, which is largely dependent upon support of the federal Government, can the Minister give the assurance that none of the material in any briefings given to Mr. Turner during the transition period while he is still a member of the board of Massey-Ferguson will deal with any matters which are relevant to the profitability and future of Massey-Ferguson?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I am not the Minister responsible for the shares of Massey-Ferguson which are held by the CDIC, but I will pass the Hon. Member's comments on to the responsible Minister.

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BILINGUALISM

EDUCATION OF IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Secretary of State, if I can get his attention. The Secretary of State knows that in many cities of Canada, such as Toronto, Vancouver, and Winnipeg, to mention just a few, a very large percentage of students attending our schools comes from families in which the language spoken at home is neither English nor French. They are having great difficulty adjusting to our school system and to our society.

Given the fact that their parents came here as a result of an immigration policy adopted by Liberal Governments, given the fact that the school districts in which they go to school, and the provinces in which they reside, are finding it impossible to provide the financial resources to upgrade their education, would the Minister give consideration to the federal Government helping and co-operating with the school districts and the provinces to improve educational facilities so these children as