

*Oral Questions*

I have not brought down a ruling on that matter yet, as the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway knows, and I regret that I have not been able to do so by this morning. However, I assure the Hon. Member that it is not because of any intention to delay.

An Hon. Member was in somewhat the same position some weeks ago on another matter where a question of privilege was raised and then the next day questions were again asked on the same point. At that time I said that I felt it was not appropriate to continue with those questions at that time until the ruling had come down.

Given the circumstances and given that fact, I want to assure the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway and other Hon. Members who are interested in this issue that I will strive mightily to have a ruling first thing on Tuesday morning. In the meantime, I would ask the co-operation of Hon. Members in respecting the position of the Chair, and to respect the fact that the very propriety of these questions is the subject matter of the dispute which I heard yesterday and on which I must decide.

I am not in any way indicating how I will rule on Tuesday morning, but I would ask that Hon. Members understand the position that we are in in this Chamber.

• (1200)

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I will put my supplementary question carefully in order to get the balance between respecting the Chair and the Opposition's right to ask questions in a free and democratic society.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** That is a reflection on the Chair.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** More contempt on the House.

**Mr. Waddell:** My question is for the Deputy Prime Minister who is responsible for the conflict of interest guidelines. In the opinion of the Deputy Prime Minister, does he consider it a conflict or even an appearance of conflict—

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Order.

**Mr. Waddell:** —when a Minister of the Crown who will be—

**Some Hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Listen to the question.

**Mr. Waddell:** The Speaker can rule on my question when I have finished it. I will not be silent on this matter.

**An Hon. Member:** Come on, Waddell.

**Mr. Daubney:** Have some respect.

**Mr. Speaker:** This is not a particularly easy matter for Members or the Chair, but it will be easier for all if Members leave it to the Chair to decide. I will hear the question.

**Mr. Waddell:** I will repeat the question, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to the conflict of interest guidelines, broadly, for which the Deputy Prime Minister is responsible, in his opinion does he consider it a conflict or even an appearance of conflict when a Minister of the Crown who will be participating in an important national decision has on his or her riding executive as a fund-raiser a senior official of one of the companies which will be affected by such an important national decision?

**Mr. Speaker:** The question may or may not, of course, be hypothetical and that is a matter for the Minister to comment on if, in fact, the Minister does want to comment on it.

I do want to point out to Hon. Members that the question we have just heard is not the same question as that put yesterday. It is a question of general application. To the degree that it is, I will allow it to stand. The Hon. Minister.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I note that the Hon. Member made reference to an apparent conflict of interest. I certainly do not want to make any comment on that because it may very well reflect upon the admonition you have given in the House.

Suffice it to say that I consider this to be a normal political process. As I understand it, representatives have met with all Calgary area Members of Parliament. They have a vital interest in the energy sector, as the Hon. Leader of the NDP would have a vital interest in the automobile sector.

**Mr. Broadbent:** We are not making the decision, Don.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I am sure he from time to time receives representations from that sector in the discharge of his duties as a Member of Parliament for the Oshawa area, as does the Hon. Member for Humboldt—Lake Centre who represents a farming area. I am sure if Hon. Members are going to be prevented from discharging their responsibilities and obligations as Members of Parliament—

**Mr. Broadbent:** He is a Minister.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** —then we have a really serious problem in this country that has to be dealt with.

**Mr. Broadbent:** I agree.

**Mr. Fulton:** You guys don't know right from wrong.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Tell Harney.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would ask the co-operation, which I know I will receive, from all Hon. Members on this matter. I would