

Leader (Mr. Hnatyshyn). I had pointed out earlier, Mr. Speaker, that they have had a registry of both Members' travel and interests in the United Kingdom Parliament for some time.

There is much to be said, Mr. Speaker, for the view that Members of Parliament should have the opportunity to learn, first-hand, about conditions in other countries and that this opportunity should not be available only to those who have been selected by the federal Government of the day, or only to those who have been selected to represent parliamentary associations, or who have ample personal private means. However, Mr. Speaker, if Members accept payment for foreign travel from other than the Government or parliamentary groups, they certainly do so as a matter of their own judgment and responsibility. They should be willing to account publicly for the exercise of that judgment and responsibility and the implications of this for the appearance it may create for the carrying out of their duties. They should be willing to account publicly, as I have said, if called on to do so, and a registry of Members' travel is important in this regard.

As I have said, Mr. Speaker, we generally support the concept of the proposed motion that the House maintain a publicly registry of such travel by Members. With regard to this notice of motion, which the Minister was kind enough to give me at around one o'clock this afternoon, I certainly want to discuss the matter of its contents with my colleagues before making any definitive comments about them.

With respect to the proposed reference to the Standing Committee on Management and Members' Services, which the Government House Leader has also read into the record of the House, this proposed reference is quite sweeping in its scope. I think all Members will want to examine this reference and consider its implications. We agree that the committee ought to receive such a reference and that it ought to have the time required to come to its conclusions. I would hope, however, that Members will give serious consideration to the implications of these proposals for themselves and their successors. Members on all sides of the House are affected by proposals in this area and I believe that the committee in its efforts to resolve it will find this matter to be quite complex.

The Government House Leader spent a good portion of his statement talking about the words of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) in this House on September 9 when he outlined a package of initiatives relating to public sector ethics. I do want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that none or almost none of the measures announced by the Prime Minister some two months ago with great fanfare are yet in force, except perhaps for the conflict of interest guidelines which are to take effect only this coming January 1. Where is the program of parliamentary scrutiny of Governor in Council appointments? Where is the register of lobbying activities? Where is the review of judicial appointments?

The public will wonder, Mr. Speaker, why the Government has begun with the measures outlined in the Minister's statement. I hope the Government does not think that by putting forward what is in the Minister's statement the public will

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forget that there is an equal and, in fact, a greater priority to move quickly on the other measures set forth in the Prime Minister's statement, about which we have, so far, heard next to nothing.

I would like to say that the measures set out in the proposed notices of motions as read out by the Government House Leader a few moments ago are subjects in which we take a great deal of interest. We will co-operate in having them given the fullest and most expeditious study because we believe that it is necessary for Members of Parliament to conduct themselves, and to be seen to conduct themselves, with a very high degree of probity.

• (1520)

I conclude by saying that this applies in equal and perhaps greater measure to the Government and its officials who have in our parliamentary system a great measure of decision-making authority that we should recognize. We should not let the statement, useful as it is, hide the fact that we and the Canadian people expect more action in the other aspects of the Government's package with respect to ethics than we have seen so far.

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I suppose that it is almost safe in the House of Commons to quote Edmund Burke and Thomas Jefferson. It seems to add a certain amount of validity to anything that one might want to say.

However, I want to express some personal concern because at this point I do not pretend to speak on behalf of all my colleagues. I have not had an opportunity to consult with them on this matter and, therefore, do not know what their views might be with regard to the measures proposed by the Government House Leader.

It is good that we will have a chance to review the proposals and deliberate on their effect before they become law, as far as we are concerned, within the Standing Orders of the House of Commons. It is interesting to note that no recommendation is made with regard to enforcement. To a large extent, the reporting process is one which is voluntarily undertaken by Members of the House within the proposals put forward by the Government House Leader.

It is difficult to express the real concerns I have because, rather than being specific, it is an uneasy feeling and goes to the trust and obligations that Members of Parliament must assume when they are elected.

How much is a citizen entitled to know about the day-to-day lives of Members of Parliament? For example, is it necessary that all the interests of every Member be made a matter of public record, given that the overwhelming majority of Members play little part in the actual management of the affairs of the country but, rather, simply pass judgment on the recommendations of the Cabinet?

Let me draw a comparison between the two bodies. The Cabinet has direct responsibility for the making of policy and the expenditure of funds. Clearly, the cabinet members have