

*Private Members' Business*

All this is to say that I find the motion of the hon. member for Nickel Belt to be in order and I again give him the floor for the three minutes remaining to him. Again I ask hon. members to be careful in what they say since the subject referred to is part of the work now going on in a parliamentary committee.

Therefore I call on both sides of the House to co-operate.

[English]

## ESTABLISHMENT OF GUIDELINES

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Mr. Speaker, I deliberately started out debating the motion. I had to put it in context. I started by describing a definition of conflict of interest as I see it.

Second, I started with the question, why is conflict of interest legislation necessary?

Third, I stated what I hoped would be accomplished if it ever becomes the law of the land.

I know my hon. colleague from Saint-Denis is a *gentilhomme*. He is a very kind and gentle person and he harks back to a period in our parliamentary history which was possibly a gentler, kinder time. But it also had overtones of being an old boy's club. This business that I cannot say what is being said in committee—well, our hearings and witnesses, whatever took place, was open to the press and many matters have been reported in the press.

The hon. member for Mississauga South did a survey in his own riding which was carried in the *Hill Times*, which said that 80 per cent of his constituents supported conflict of interest legislation and 78.2 per cent included that spouses should be included in the whole matter.

My motion proposes that not only should the elected members and the public office holders be covered by the legislation, but that it is also important for senior bureaucrats and the most important political advisers to politicians be covered. In fact, they receive the same kind of lobbying, they are subject to the same influences as members of Parliament in many instances. I have proposed in my motion that they also be covered.

I would urge members to support this. I think it is part of a very important triad of bills that will enhance the

credibility and the ethical performance of the House of Commons as perceived by the public.

[Translation]

**Mr. Charles A. Langlois (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to speak this evening to Motion M-22 presented by the hon. member for Nickel Belt. I will read it into the record so it will appear in *Hansard* in French, as follows:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider introducing legislation setting conflict-of-interest guidelines for Members of Parliament and Senators; and that these guidelines should also regulate conflict-of-interest and post-employment practices for senior bureaucrats and senior political staff.

That is the wording of the motion moved by the hon. member for Nickel Belt. Hon. members are aware that the subject matter of this motion is being given broad consideration at this time.

As we all know, on November 22 last year, the government did in fact table similar legislation. A special joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons was appointed recently to examine the subject-matter of Bill C-43, the Members of the Senate and the House of Commons Conflict of Interests Act. The hon. member for Nickel Belt is a member of this committee and is therefore familiar with the initial proceedings in which he was an active participant.

I also think it is important to recall that the Conflict of Interest Post-Employment Code for public office holders tabled by the government is already in place. This code was introduced for the first time by the Prime Minister in September 1985. The code already provides guidance with respect to conflict of interest and post-employment practices for public servants, senior political staff and ministers and parliamentary secretaries. In this respect, the Special Joint Committee has already heard testimony on its application from a government witness, the Assistant Deputy Registrar General, who is responsible for enforcing the code.

However, conflict of interest, the general focus of the motion, is an important issue for parliamentarians and deserves to be taken very seriously. The work of this committee will have an immediate impact on the lives of all parliamentarians, now and in the future. Canadians generally are also interested in the subject because they