

Oral Questions[*Translation*]

Mr. Chrétien: —and ensure that the proposed charter of rights be debated in a rational fashion. I think that during the exchanges we might have in committee between members, myself and the officials of my department we could find the best solution. I do not think that it will be in the best interest of the House to try to score political points at this stage—

[*English*]

Mr. Clark: Yes, go to London, avoid Canadians.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chrétien: Madam Speaker, the hon. member seems to believe there is a serious problem, a problem I would like to solve in a judicial manner as quickly as possible. The best way of doing so is to discuss the proposals of the hon. member in committee, to look at the legislation as it is drafted and amend it if necessary.

[*English*]

Mr. Crombie: Madam Speaker, the minister well knows, and so do his colleagues, that we will be asked to vote on this matter before it is sent to the committee. The people I represent would like to know the answer to the question. It is a very straightforward question. The basis of my question is this: the Minister of Employment and Immigration brought forward a few weeks ago three affirmative action programs dealing with young people, dealing with women, and dealing with Indians. If the Bakke case were applied here, those three programs would not be declared legal.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Crombie: I ask the minister only one question—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I know the hon. member was about to ask a question, but I must remind him that when I call him to order, he must resume his seat. Will he now put his question immediately.

Mr. Crombie: Madam Speaker, I appreciate your advice to me. I should like to ask the minister whether he would undertake to provide the House with a legal opinion that those three programs are not in jeopardy.

Mr. Chrétien: Madam Speaker, it is my intention to deal with all these problems in the committee—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chrétien: —and I am profoundly convinced that the best way we can protect the rights of Canadians is to have a good charter of rights—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chrétien: —and to make sure that this charter of rights is enshrined in the constitution and drafted in such a way that

no affirmative action programs which have been decided on for the good of Canadians will be thrown out because of the charter of rights. Basically, a charter of rights is to protect rights. I am glad that the hon. member wants those rights to be protected and I hope he will vote for a charter of rights.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: That is a sad response.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

ALLEGED BREACH OF GUIDELINES

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It concerns the Government of Canada's conflict of interest guidelines. Commodore Arnott, who was the project manager of the frigate program, was offered a position in March, 1980, by Vickers Stanwick, a subsidiary of Vickers Canada. In June of 1980, presumably while this job offer was being negotiated, Vickers Canada was added to the short list from which they had been dropped in October, 1979. At the end of June, 1980, having received departmental permission, Commodore Arnott resigned as project manager and became president of Vickers Stanwick. What is the Prime Minister doing about this flagrant breaching of his guidelines?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, I think that Commodore Arnott has acted in conformity with the procedure established under existing guidelines on conflict of interest. I am well aware of all the details which the hon. member for Victoria has given me and I have asked privy council to co-ordinate the review of the case to make sure that all these guidelines have been observed according to the existing regulations.

ALLEGED BREACH OF GUIDELINES BY VICKERS CANADA

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, I put my question to the Prime Minister because I wanted an answer from someone who knew something about what is going on in the Department of National Defence.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McKinnon: I will direct my supplementary to the Prime Minister and perhaps he would be kind enough to take an interest in this matter. Scan Marine, one of the other competitors, has wisely registered a complaint regarding this matter. Will the Prime Minister now consider rejecting the bid by Vickers Canada in view of the unfair advantage the company has achieved by this flouting of his guidelines, which his Minister of National Defence either condoned or about which he was shockingly ignorant?