

that time? His Government gave a name to patronage which is now history. Where was he? Why was he not speaking up? Why would he not speak up when his Government was indulging in the worst patronage in the history of our country?

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, without commenting on the validity of the Hon. Member's statement, it sounded an awful lot like a statement saying that two wrongs make a right.

Mr. Andre: You admit a wrong.

Mr. Tobin: No, no.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tobin: Listen carefully.

Mr. Darling: You admit a wrong.

Mr. Deans: They were wrong and so were you.

Mr. Tobin: Without commenting on the validity of the Hon. Member's comments, it sounds like a defence to me from somebody who is trying to say "leave us alone; because we think it happened before, it is okay for us to do it". The Government House Leader, an important representative and an important spokesman, did not rise to tell us why there was no wrongdoing.

Mr. Andre: There was no wrongdoing.

Mr. Tobin: He rose and went on a vicious attack. The Prime Minister was questioned, as reported in the May 24, 1983 edition of *The Globe and Mail*, as follows:

"Mr. Mulroney, you're going to be Prime Minister", and Mr. Mulroney shouts back, "You're going to be a Senator. But it will all be fair. There will also be jobs for Liberals and New Democrats—after I've been Prime Minister for 15 years and I can't find a living breathing Tory in the country".

The Government House Leader, who was outraged a moment ago—and the cameras cannot see him—is grinning from ear to ear.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: You are a joke.

Mr. Tobin: He knows that there have been 1,200 patronage appointments made by the Government, not 500. He knows that not all patronage appointments are Order in Council appointments. He knows that. He is not fooling anybody. I invite him now to answer one question. I will not raise the subject ever again, no matter what is his answer, but I ask him to give me a yes or no. Does he think it is appropriate for the brother-in-law of a Cabinet Minister to receive an untendered contract from that Cabinet Minister's Department? Is that appropriate? Yes or no.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): The Hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, the problem is that the premise is wrong.

Mr. Tobin: Yes or no.

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Mr. Hnatyshyn: The allegation in terms of the contract in question is completely wrong.

Mr. Tobin: Yes or no.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: It is wrong because he did not get it from the Minister's Department. It was from the Department of Supply and Services.

Mr. Tobin: Yes or no.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: How can I answer yes or no to a question which is wrong in its very premise? I stand up with my colleagues and say that there has been no breach of any guidelines. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) is an honourable and decent man. No amount of attempted character assassination on the part of the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party will cause one change in the attitude we take with respect to doing the right thing on behalf of the people of Canada.

I say to the Hon. Member that he does himself a disservice. He brings his own credibility into serious question by this kind of muck-raking and this kind of attack on a decent and outstanding Canadian citizen.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, in order to clarify the record—and I do not know if the camera can see it—this document is entitled: *The Black Paper on Tory Patronage*. It was prepared by the Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria), and it lists considerably more than 500 Tory patronage appointments. The Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell has done a super job watching the kinds of tricks those people have played. I would be glad, on his behalf, to provide a copy of it to any Member who requests it. In case they did not know, they can take credit for a lot more than 500, because there are about 1,200 listed in the document prepared so ably by the Hon. Member.

Mr. Johnson: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Member for Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin) if he believes that every Member making a statement in debate or answering questions should tell the truth to Hon. Members of the House.

Mr. Tobin: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I think all of us should endeavour, wherever possible, in whatever way possible, in so far as we have the information, to tell the truth to Hon. Members of the House.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Resuming debate.

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, having returned to the House this afternoon to join in the debate on the question before us as to whether in fact it is acceptable for the Government of Canada to grant an untendered contract to the brother-in-law of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), I have been taken by the comments of the Government House Leader who suggested that this question was not of any great concern to the people of Canada. I very much doubt that. I am always aware of the fact that my