

number of Liberals present, that should hardly surprise him considering the activity of Liberals in building up this country.

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO PRESIDENT OF LIBERAL WOMEN'S COMMISSION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also for the Minister of Justice. My office has contacted a number of the people invited by the Minister's office. No doubt they were invited because of their Liberal connections. For example, Lauris Talmey of Richmond, B.C., said:

I guess I was invited because I'm now President of the Liberal Women's Commission in B.C.

Can the Minister account for such a statement by any other explanation than that the legitimate work of this Conference was used as a cover to build his leadership campaign organization well before the Prime Minister's resignation?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend is both hard of hearing and understanding. There were people at that Conference last year who were nominees of all Parties in this House, some of them very active. The person my hon. friend mentions is one of the most active people in women's circles in Canada. There are many people who have that kind of national status who were at the Conference. It would have been a poor Conference if they were not.

DISTRIBUTION OF CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Justice. The edited proceedings of the People's Law Conference in May were published at government expense and distributed by the Minister's leadership campaign committee, as campaign literature, at the recent meeting of the Ontario wing of the Liberal Party of Canada. The publication is highlighted with such immortal phrases as:

Mr. MacGuigan has a vision of democracy in action... At the People's Law Conference he proved that it does work in the highest practical sense.

In light of what my colleague just said, and in light of this palpable pap, would the Minister rise to his feet and admit to Parliament, and through Parliament to the people of Canada, that he is using taxpayers' money to further the campaign of himself for the Liberal leadership of this country?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for reading my qualifications into the record. I am sure he does it with great sincerity.

Mr. McDermid: That brought the House down.

Mr. MacGuigan: In fact the publication to which he refers is a literal reproduction of the proceedings of the Conference.

Mr. Crosbie: The only one laughing is Chrétien.

Oral Questions

Mr. MacGuigan: There were some people there who, I am happy to say, had that opinion of my work. There were people there who spoke about all aspects of the law that was under consideration.

Mr. Nielsen: Name one.

Mr. MacGuigan: I am glad my hon. friend has a copy of the book, and I hope he reads it and learns something from it.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also for the Minister of Justice. We are not doubting that some qualified people were invited to attend the People's Law Conference. Nor are we doubting the potential usefulness of such a Conference in principle. But how can the Minister so shamelessly use taxpayers' money to advance his leadership campaign when many of the participants in the Conference in question had no qualifications whatever other than as potential delegates to the Liberal leadership convention in June?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I can tell that my hon. friend has not yet read very far in that book. A minority of the people at last year's Conference represented the legal profession. The majority represented the people of Canada. That is why it was the People's Law Conference, and there were people drawn from their communities. This was not a specialist conference. This was a conference of people who were community involved—

Mr. Crosbie: They were Liberals pretending to be people.

Mr. MacGuigan: —and who were interested in the way in which the law impinged on their society, their groups, and themselves. I think that is why the Conference has had the kind of impact it has had upon the development of law in Canada, because those who participated were so well chosen and participated so well.

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THE PRESS

EFFECT OF COMPETITION BILL ON MAJOR NEWSPAPER CHAINS

Hon. Jim Fleming (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. While the new Competition Bill will obviously discourage, and probably stop, either of Canada's two giant daily newspaper chains from taking over each other, could the Minister assure the House, as a Member of a Cabinet which agreed these two chains should not increase their daily newspaper holdings in Canada, that the Bill will stop the two chains from acquiring more Canadian daily newspapers, when they already control almost two-thirds of English-language daily newspaper circu-