

Oral Questions

prepared to table his report in the House of Commons when it is ready.

[*Translation*]

OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD INQUIRY—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my supplementary to the Prime Minister. An inquiry was launched by the federal Government as early as last February. Quebec authorities have now made their inquiry and charges have been laid. Does not all this warrant shedding light on the matter, that a public inquiry be conducted so Canadians may know exactly what happened in this case?

[*English*]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should bring to the attention of the Hon. Member the words of Marc Barriere, a spokesman for the QSC, who said, speaking of the persons charged: "They are charged with knowing that Memotec had bid on Teleglobe and benefiting from this knowledge. The charges do not concern the decision by the Government to sell Teleglobe to Memotec."

The reality is that the QSC acted on what they think is a violation of the Quebec Securities Act. We are investigating to see whether there have been any violations of the Canada Business Corporations Act. As I just indicated, I asked the Director to expedite his investigation so I can table his report in the House as soon as possible.

CANADA DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT CORPORATION—
DIRECTOR'S RESIGNATION

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and deals with the same issue. The Prime Minister knows that Peter Blaikie, the former national President of the Conservative Party of Canada, was one of those charged with insider trading. He also—

Mr. Speaker: I do not know where the Hon. Member's question is leading. As a consequence, I had to interrupt before he could perhaps get back on the fine line of appropriate questions in this matter. Hon. Members should be very careful to restrict their questions on this matter to those areas of ministerial responsibility. I have to say that the questions of the Hon. Member for Saint-Jacques were excellent and appropriate. I ask the same co-operation from other Members.

This is a serious matter but this is not the place to try anyone. It is the place to ask Ministers what they did or did not do or what they knew or did not know about those matters within their area of responsibility. Provided questions are along that line the Chair will of course allow them. The Hon. Member is very experienced and I know he will co-operate with the Chair.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, since Mr. Blaikie resigned on Friday as a member of the board of directors of the Canada

Development Investment Corporation, which, amongst other things, advises the Government on privatization, has the time not come for tougher guidelines concerning government appointments to boards, commissions, agencies and the like?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Privatization and Regulatory Affairs)): Mr. Speaker, the appointment to the board of CDIC was made very recently. Mr. Blaikie offered his resignation and I accepted it on behalf of the Government, subject to Order in Council routine. I do not believe there is any need for an investigation. The investigation now under way by the QSC will determine the outcome of the charges. People have been charged; people have not been convicted.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS—REQUEST FOR STRICTER GUIDELINES

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is again directed to the Prime Minister. On September 9, 1985, he wrote an open letter to all Members of Parliament and Senators on ethics in public service and public appointments and so on. When is he going to act on some of the recommendations he made? In particular, does he think the time has come for tougher guidelines on government appointments as well as things like patronage and lobbying?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend referred to the fact that the guidelines were addressed to MPs and Senators. If he is suggesting that in this particular case—

Mr. Nystrom: The letter was.

Mr. Mulroney: The letter. If he is suggesting in this particular case involving Mr. Blaikie that there has been a violation by an MP or Senator, perhaps he ought to say so.

With regard to the allegation, Mr. Blaikie is a distinguished member of the Quebec Bar and I suppose my hon. friend would agree, I hope he would, that Mr. Blaikie, along with other Canadians, benefits from the presumption of innocence.

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[*Translation*]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Last week, his Minister responsible for Regional Industrial Expansion and Science and Technology stated that Canada had no strategy for industrial development and thus acknowledged the helplessness and incompetence of the Conservative Government after having been in power for three years. During the weekend, the Minister responsible for Regional Economic Expansion in Quebec, Mr. Marc-Yvan Côté, while in attendance at the convention held by the Union of Regional Municipalities asked that the federal Government put its house in order and provide