

records of NDP Governments in three different provinces. I cannot speak for Manitoba or British Columbia because I am not aware of all that went on there, although I am sure some of my colleagues could elucidate on that. However, having been Provincial Secretary of my Party in my province for seven years, part of which time my Party formed the Government, and having served on the Party executive in council during the years we were in government, I can say that no present or past President of the Saskatchewan NDP has ever been appointed to a position in the NDP Government, whether it be to a Crown corporation or a government department. No member of the Party's provincial executive has been appointed to an Order in Council position or a Crown corporation board since 1944. I challenge anyone to name one person who did.

I have listened to Members opposite as well as the Prime Minister express doubts about that. At the moment there is in the Province of Saskatchewan one Mr. George Hill, past President of the Saskatchewan Progressive Conservative Party, who was first appointed Chairman of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation. He has now been appointed to the bench. One Irving Goldenberg, previous President of the provincial Progressive Conservative Party, has now been appointed to the bench. By the way, someone I see frequently and know and like very well is Dr. Barootes, an excellent doctor and an excellent fund raiser for the Conservative Party. He is a very capable and nice man, there is no argument about that. He is, however, a past National President of the Progressive Conservative Party and has been appointed to the Senate. The Prime Minister is entitled to appoint whomever he wishes to the Senate. I am not complaining about that. However, I do not want to hear any Tories about the NDP appointing Party hacks.

One wonders and worries about the direction the Government and the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) might want to take when it comes to medicare, hospitalization, deterrent fees and funding for hospitalization and medicare. I know that the hon. gentleman who has been appointed to the other place will not object because I have said this to him before in public. But Dr. Barootes is the guy who led the fight against medicare in Saskatchewan. He is the guy who led the "keep our doctors" committee. He is the guy who raised money to prevent medicare from being instituted in that province. There was a doctors' strike. One of the leaders of that strike was Dr. Barootes. Where is Dr. Barootes now? He has been appointed to the Senate by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) who set these high standards during the last election campaign. He set those high standards quite rightly. We agreed with him. But when it came to meeting them, he appointed people who totally disagree with medical care which is publicly operated and funded. One has to wonder about the high principles which have been laid down by the Prime Minister.

• (1500)

We did not start this in this Parliament. The Prime Minister started it. The Minister of Supply and Service (Mr. Andre)

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started it, and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) sits by and quietly acquiesces.

The question has still not been answered by the Government as to whether or not, as the motion reads, the Government thinks that it is appropriate for a brother-in-law or any relative to be granted an untendered contract without the Minister concerned offering his resignation. That is what is in question. It has nothing to do with the abilities and capabilities of the Minister of Finance.

I knew about the Minister of Finance long before he entered this House. He once performed some excellent work on contract, for the NDP Government of Saskatchewan. We know he is capable. We knew that years ago, long before many Members opposite were in the House. That is not the question. The question is: Is it or is it not appropriate to allow an untendered contract to go to a close relative? That is the question which has yet to be addressed by anyone on the government side.

No one disagrees with the saving of half a million dollars. But that totally evades the question and the principle which was laid down in the unctuous and sanctimonious words of the Prime Minister during the election campaign of last summer. I would urge members of the Government to rise in their place to answer and to speak to the specific question in the motion. Do they or do they not think it is appropriate for a brother-in-law of the Minister of Finance to receive an untendered contract, regardless of whether or not the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Supply and Services knew anything about it? Do government Members think that is appropriate? Second, should not one or both of those Ministers tender their resignations without having to be asked, pressured or put upon by Members in the Chamber, the media or the public?

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I am tempted to ask the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin), having discarded several members of the executive of the Saskatchewan NDP, if he knows Mr. Matsalla who was the former NDP Minister of Resources in Saskatchewan and who was appointed as an advisor on potash to the NDP Government of Manitoba. But I will not do that.

The Hon. Member said that he expected the Progressive Conservatives to govern. He said that he expected us to deal with people whom we know and trust. He also said that he expected us to make competent appointments. Does the Member not admit that the ultimate in competence is when a person or a firm, which is appointed on the same fee—15 per cent—as any person or firm would get under a tendered process, comes back and says that what was requested had been performed according to the contract and makes the recommendation that it should not be done any more? Is it not the ultimate in competence when someone who receives a contract comes back and tells us not to spend the money that way again in order that the taxpayers' money can be saved? Is that not what we are all here for, no matter what Party we belong to?

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, I think it was very good of that particular firm to do that. That is the kind of thing which any