

Order in Council appointee Brian Gallery has sent a letter in reference to his publications from which I would like to quote. I quote from page 2 that refers to actions "which would be a serious blow to the financial success of Gallery Publications." That is in reference to a contract that that company had with CN.

Given that Section 116 of the Financial Administration Act states that an officer of a Crown corporation who has an interest in a contract with that Crown corporation must make a disclosure in writing to the corporation, is the Prime Minister now ready to table that document, the document concerning his appointee, Mr. Brian Gallery? Or, will he not admit to the House that five minutes ago the corporate secretary of CN was unable to ascertain that such a document had ever been filed?

• (1440)

[*Translation*]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell is referring to the same sources as his colleague from Newfoundland, and I will repeat what I told his colleague.

Mr. Boudria: No!

Mr. Bouchard (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, he is arguing on the basis of documents, and so forth. Once again, elementary decency demands that the minister responsible to the government for a corporation should ask that corporation to provide, through the chairman of the board, any information on a question of this kind. That is what I have asked the chairman of the board of directors to do. And once again, until such time as I have received this information, I have no further response to give to the House.

[*English*]

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, let the record show that Mr. Don McKinnon, the corporate secretary, was unable to find that information as of five or ten minutes ago.

I want to ask the Prime Minister the following question. This time it is about the conflict of interest code which he himself tabled in the House on September 9, 1985. The code states very clearly under Section 7:

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(d) on appointment to office, and thereafter, public office holders shall arrange their private affairs in a manner that will prevent real, potential or apparent conflict of interest—

The code also states that they:

—shall not solicit or accept transfers of economic benefit—

Does the Prime Minister feel that Section 7 of the code has been observed by Mr. Brian Gallery. Is he prepared to say that here and now?

Mr. Benjamin: One Brian deserves another.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, what is so funny?

Mr. Boudria: Nothing.

Mr. Mulroney: I have been asked a simple question. I agree with my hon. friend, but the NDP seems to think it is a jocular matter. It is not.

I have been asked a question. My hon. friend is seeking information. Surely, he would not want me to express a value judgment of any kind in the absence of all relevant facts.

The Minister of Transport has explained that the chairman of the board of the CNR, Mr. Brian Smith, is in the process of ascertaining all relevant data that will be—

Mr. Boudria: Under the code the responsibility is with you.

Mr. Speaker: A question has been asked. The right hon. Prime Minister is attempting to answer it. I would ask for the co-operation of members.

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, when that data has been assembled by the appropriate officer of the Crown corporation, as indicated yesterday a report will be made to the Minister of Transport. It is very clear.

Mr. Boudria: You are responsible for the code.

Mr. Mulroney: It is very clear that irrespective of what those facts might be the Liberals are not seeking justice. They want a lynching. They are not going to get it in the House of Commons.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I want the Prime Minister to take this matter seriously.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!