

Supply

Our jurisconsult will essentially have the same type of powers. That may seem a bit strange. Former Mr. Justice Evans operates on a part-time basis. He does not have to be there full time. It is a pretty easy one-man show.

We looked at the situation in Canada right now with the current office that Georges Tsai runs. He has 20 bureaucrats there. They look after—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret the hon. member's time has expired. The next two speakers will divide their time 10 minutes each.

Ms. Albina Guarnieri (Mississauga East): "There will be jobs for Liberals and NDPs too after I have been Prime Minister for 15 years and I can't find a living, breathing Tory in the country". Those were the boastful words, Mr. Speaker, of the Prime Minister in 1983. Mind you, if you look at the polls after only nine years, the Prime Minister may already be having trouble finding living, breathing Tories in Canada.

Of course, when it comes to hand-outs for cronies and backers, this government is flush with jobs and contracts. We in opposition shudder every time we hear that someone is leaving the Prime Minister's Office. It cannot be long we say before we find the government contracts headed in the same direction.

We remember the Prime Minister's former director of strategic planning who was in the PMO just long enough for a \$700,000 contract to be given to the firm he once founded. Once this was achieved, this Tory friend was quick to quit the PMO and repurchase his interest in his old firm. I suppose he was one of the living, breathing Tories the Prime Minister was looking for.

Last year was a time of great suffering for many Canadians, particularly the 1.5 million unemployed and the thousands upon thousands of small business people who were forced into bankruptcy. People lost their homes, sometimes for lack of only a few thousand dollars.

Perhaps the Minister of Employment and Immigration should have made a revision of his definition of just cause for quitting a job.

• (1740)

He should have included contracts being awarded to an employee's firm as reason to pull out of the Tory well on the next slush bucket.

It must have been quite disorienting for unemployed Canadians to hear one TV ad after another saying that Canada was number one.

Canada must indeed be number one in taxpayer funded political advertising. We are told \$21 million was spent to confuse the unemployed into believing that the policies of this government were not the cause of their misery. They repeatedly heard the slogan: "Yes, we can". It should have said: "Yes, we can give contracts to our Tory friends. Yes, we can cut welfare".

There is no money for health care and education, but we can spend millions on feel-good TV ads. Yes, this government can spend millions on nothing while spending nothing on millions, the millions of Canadians on social assistance.

We cannot remove from our consciences that during the life of this government an organization gave a giant donation to the Conservative Party. A questionable loan guarantee worth millions was reciprocated and ordinary hard-working coal miners lost their lives.

The question is whether the interests of Canadians are served by the expenditures sanctioned by this government. There can always be mistakes if circumstances are misinterpreted. However when expenditures are driven by the interest of Tory supporters and their individual businesses, the interests of Canadians are indeed ill served.

We cannot possibly keep track of all Tory friends, associates and donors. Recent history should teach us to wonder about Tory blunders. Premium Automotive is one such blunder.

Ministers stood one upon the next to denounce the scoundrels they had trusted with such a handsome dip into the public purse; loan guarantees and five years of tax breaks not to mention \$1.2 million that Canadians will have to repay. Their Tory sanctioned investment vanished in the night or so we were told.

Can Canadians be sure that Premium Automotive was funded for its products and not its contacts? Perhaps we will never know.

The Prime Minister once said that Canada is open for business. We have to wonder if open for business meant up for sale.