

*Supply*

anywhere else. The member for Abitibi is a member of Parliament who everybody in the House can and should admire. He is an example to all of us. The members of the House should try to be more like him.

The trouble with the system is that the way to get ahead in it is by "apple polishing" the right hon. gentleman who sits there.

Until members of Parliament take pride in being members of Parliament instead of being aspiring ministers, parliamentary secretaries or ambassadors, our system will not be the kind of House that the member for Mississauga South and I would both like it to be.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Charles A. Langlois (Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Madam Speaker, I again listened very carefully to what the member for Edmonton Southeast said. I noted in his comments to the House, especially at the very beginning, that he gave a detailed list of spending by Cabinet ministers on official trips. Of course if ministers of the Crown, representing the Government of Canada, go outside the country, it costs money. According to the member for Edmonton Southeast, we would have to conclude that this type of spending is unethical, a form of misconduct and contrary to the interests of Canada and of this House.

If that is what the member for Edmonton Southeast thinks of the value of the representations made by representatives of the government and of Canada when they travel abroad to defend our interests, pursue our foreign policy, strengthen our ties with our allies and open new trade opportunities, if that is unethical and misconduct on the part of government members, I have serious doubts about the judgment of the member for Edmonton Southeast.

If he has such a keen sense of integrity and is so scrupulous, I have a question for him. He accuses members of this caucus of lacking integrity because they do not speak up to denounce abuses. Could I ask him whether he was so scrupulous when he decided to quit the Conservative Party, even though he was elected under that banner in 1984 and 1988? Did he have the decency and the integrity to obtain his constituents' agreement for changing to a party other than the one they elected him for?

**Mr. Kilgour:** Madam Speaker, very briefly, I would say that it is a question of judgment, a question of respect for the public and for the federal government's lack of money.

I gave Mr. Clark as an example. He has to take a government plane to attend a Conservative Party meeting. As a Canadian of Scottish origin, I think that it is very easy to make such trips on regular flights. I do not have the article on hand, but I think that he spent something like \$67,000. To me that is an abuse of power.

As for running in a by-election, I said when I was expelled from the party by the member and his colleagues that if the Prime Minister would sign a contract to call a by-election within three months or less, I would be very glad to run. Knowing the Prime Minister very well, I knew full well that if I resigned my seat, he would make me wait a year, maybe more. Since I have four children, I really like to get paid at the end of the month.

**Mr. Langlois:** Oh, that's it.

[*English*]

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair):** Madam Speaker, let me first of all say that this motion, which is a Liberal opposition day motion, would not find itself naturally within the context of my critic area. Let me say more about it. It is not the kind of debate that I find great pleasure participating in at all.

• (1650)

I just do not like and never have liked mud slinging and scandal mongering. In all the time I have been in this House I have not jumped to the conclusion that what the press prints about a member is necessarily true. All of us in this place are human and all of us are going to make mistakes. By and large the newspaper reports put into the record today constitute a record of human error, the perpetrators of which to one degree or another have been punished.

We talk about corruption in Canadian politics. It is time that this be put into the proper context. Much of what has been said and the impression of Canadian politicians has been created to a very large degree by the reports of what happens on the other side of the river. I know that some will look askance at that remark, but the fact is a culture has grown which says that politicians are corrupt and are never to be trusted because they are always putting money into their own pockets.