

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would of course have to examine the circumstances of the statement you just quoted. It should be placed into its context.

But I can say, as I told my friend for Granby, that the fact that the Caisse or the Société générale de financement owns shares is important as a matter of fact, strictly because the connection leads us to the Quebec Government. It is important in such a transaction that we should be able to speak with those who take the decisions. That is all.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister know whether the ideological biases of Bay Street, as voiced by his Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, are to set government policy and whether the Government will be concerned about the true economic needs of Quebecers?

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that the only Quebecer who is biased in favour of Bay Street interests is the Hon. Member for Shawinigan, who represents them.

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[English]

FORESTRY

NEWFOUNDLAND FORESTRY CENTRE

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. On July 11, 1984, the Prime Minister, as Leader of the Opposition, sent a telex to the Mayor of Corner Brook indicating that if elected to government he and his Party would not cancel the decision already made to relocate the federal forestry centre from St. John's to Corner Brook. On November 8 his Minister of Finance cancelled that move and announced a savings of \$3.5 million for the fiscal year 1985. In light of the fact that I hold in my hand—

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Order.

Mr. Tobin:—a copy of his letter to the Mayor of Corner Brook, will the Prime Minister tell this House, and through this House all the people of Canada, after committing himself to the forestry centre, if his word is worth the paper it is written on?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I hold in both hands a pair of glasses through which I would be happy to look at the document to which my hon. friend refers. But the Hon. Member knows full well that, along with other important matters, this one, unfortunately, had to be rolled over and deferred—

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney:—pursuant to November 8.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): Roll over, Mulroney.

Oral Questions

Mr. Mulroney: My hon. friend knows full well that, while we are unable to accommodate this particular one at this time, we have concluded the Atlantic Accord, which is the most historic and beneficial program for the development of Newfoundland and Labrador since Newfoundland entered Confederation in 1949.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

CONTENT OF COMMUNICATION

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Prime Minister for his melodious nonsense, but the people of my riding want a straight answer. I weigh my words carefully, Mr. Speaker, and he shall see this document, as shall everyone else in this House. Is his word worth the paper it is written on? Or will the Prime Minister tell me and the people of Corner Brook, is he a liar?

Mr. Mazankowski: Order.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Does the Hon. Member wish to rephrase his question?

Mr. Tobin: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would be delighted to ask the question again. The people of my riding want a straight answer from the Prime Minister. He wrote this document, he signed it, we are simply asking if this document was an honest statement of intention. Did he mean it when he wrote it, or is he a liar?

An Hon. Member: It is a question.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): The Leader of the Opposition laughs. Shame!

Mr. Speaker: Let me make it simple for the Hon. Member. Language which is unparliamentary cannot be simply introduced by way of a question. Is that clear? Therefore, does the Hon. Member wish to rephrase his question, for the last time?

Mr. Mazankowski: Withdraw.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Withdraw.

Mr. Tobin: I am trying to rephrase it, Mr. Speaker. The rules of the House—

Mr. Speaker: Does the Hon. Member wish to rephrase his question? Otherwise, I will simply rule the question out of order.

Mr. Tobin: I am trying to.

Mr. Speaker: I rule the question out of order. The Hon. Member for Swift Current-Maple Creek.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!