

However, Mr. Speaker, we now know that the fault lies with the Minister for External Affairs, and to re-establish his credibility in the important area of constitutional affairs, he must—

[*English*]

**Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon (Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as the Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs said in committee today: "I am not responsible for things we knew nothing about". In this case it is clear that ministers knew nothing about Mr. Al-Mashat before he arrived in Canada.

Second, ministers fulfilled their responsibility by ensuring that a full and complete investigation of the matter was carried out.

Third, ministers ensured that the procedure has been changed and the system has been improved. There is no guarantee that errors in judgment and mistakes will not happen again, but ministers have done their best to make improvements in procedures and systems.

[*Translation*]

Earlier on, I was asked why do I speak mostly English. I can carry on in French. I for one, Mr. Speaker, believe in the sovereignty of this House, and this House has decided to refer this question to a legislative committee. It is not the truth we are seeking, but merely the show. Otherwise, I think we should be sovereign enough, out of respect for the committee working on the matter, to wait for its report. About confidence, I have to say that I have every confidence in this minister. He also has the confidence of the government and over half of Canada.

[*English*]

#### PUBLIC SERVICE

**Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to follow up on the question I posed last week to the President of the Treasury Board in Question Period concerning the terrible damage that is being done in many domains of the Public Service by this government's continual bashing of the Public Service.

#### *Adjournment Debate*

We had a leaked memo from the Department of National Health and Welfare that showed very clearly that by meeting the restraints in spending and personnel this government is imposing on the Public Service it is going to damage tremendously the delivery of health services in this country.

That almost amounts to a contempt of Parliament, when the government refuses to provide the resources that Parliament has determined should be delivered to the people of Canada. When people have seen decisions made in this House that certain services are in the public interest and are to be delivered, it is incumbent on the government to do the will of Parliament and to provide the resources to make sure that those services are delivered. The minister said: "Well, we are saving money—fiscal restraint". This is a political Preston Manning agenda of pandering to the worst elements in society who do not believe in government and do not believe in government delivering services to Canadians; who would be happy to see our medicare system gone; who would be happy to see our social services system gone and would be happy to see the unemployed left to fend for themselves.

I would like to talk about the \$50 billion this country spends annually on health care. It is not really health care, it is sickness care. What I want to talk about is what the actions of this government are forcing to be cut out of services to Canadians that keep them healthy.

The actions of this government are forcing Health and Welfare to reduce health promotion, which at very little cost keeps people healthy, out of hospitals and not costing the taxpayers a lot of money.

Community advertising, community education about public health and disease prevention are going to keep Canadians healthy. With diseases like Alzheimers and AIDS gaining ascendancy and costing us billions of dollars every year, how dare this government say: "We do not want to promote the health of Canadians. We want them to get sicker and sicker so they will end up in hospital and cost taxpayers even more money".