

*Statements by Ministers*

Ministers imposing specific and strict limitations on the hiring of family members, an experimental program of parliamentary scrutiny of Governor-in-Council appointments, the registration of lobbying activities, advice to Crown corporations respecting appropriate conduct in their dealings with the Government of Canada, and a review of the judicial appointments' process. This process of administrative reform directed at providing more open and responsible Government parallels the process of reform in the rules and practices of the House now under way. The objective of the House reforms is to ensure that the House of Commons and its Members have the necessary tools to play a greater role in the development of policy and in holding the Government to account for its actions.

If it is time, as we are convinced it is, for Ministers and other individuals holding government offices to be made subject to a comprehensive code of ethics, and if it is appropriate for the Government to restore authority to the House, it is also appropriate that Members of Parliament meet the high standards which will now apply to other public office holders.

*[Translation]*

It was for this reason, when tabling the other measures dealing with ethics in the public sector, that the Prime Minister wrote to the leaders of the Opposition parties, asking their help in establishing a code of ethics for Members of Parliament and suggesting that the three House leaders meet to discuss recommendations that would make it possible for the House to take action.

*[English]*

We have begun that process and I am hopeful that our discussions will result in concrete proposals for further reform. In the meantime I believe the motions, of which I have given notice today, will go a long way toward establishing a solid foundation for reform as well as reaffirming the trust relationship which exists between the people of Canada and their representatives in Parliament.

• (1510)

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I think it would be worth-while to simply read into the record the motions which I am putting forward today for the consideration of the House. The first is the proposed draft Standing Order which would cover the element of foreign travel by Members of Parliament. The motion reads simply:

That the Standing Orders be amended by inserting the following new Chapter after Standing Order 84:

"Chapter XVI  
Declaration of Interest by Members

85. The Clerk shall maintain a public Registry of Foreign Travel by Members of Parliament in which members shall register all visits they make outside Canada, arising from or relating to their membership in the House of Commons where the cost of any such travel is not wholly borne by:

- (a) the Consolidated Revenue Fund;
- (b) the member personally;
- (c) any interparliamentary association or friendship group recognized by the House of Commons;

(d) any recognized party;

together with the name of the sponsoring person or organization which paid for travel to and/or from Canada."

With respect to the proposed order of reference to the Standing Committee on Management and Members' Services which I referred to in my remarks, that motion is as follows:

That the Standing Committee on Management and Members' Services consider matters related to the establishment of a Register of Members' Interests, and report on these and any other matters relating to registration of Members' interests, including the form and content of such a Register, considering among other matters relating to the registration of Members' interest, the following:

- (a) remunerated directorships of companies, public or private;
- (b) other remunerated positions or offices;
- (c) remunerated trades, professions or vocations;
- (d) the names of clients when the interests referred to above include personal services by the Member which arise out of or are related in any manner to his or her membership in the House;
- (e) any payments or any material benefits or advantages received from or on behalf of foreign Governments, organizations or persons;
- (f) land and property of substantial value or from which a substantial income is derived; and
- (g) the names of companies or other bodies in which the Member has, to his knowledge, either himself or with or on behalf of his spouse or dependents, any beneficial interest including—among others, shareholdings—of a nominal value greater than one-hundredth of the total capital assets of the company or other body.

and that it report on the form and content of such a Register not later than December 31, 1985.

Provided, Mr. Speaker, that notwithstanding the usual practices of the House, if the House is not sitting when the final report of the committee is completed, the committee shall report its findings by depositing the said report with the Clerk of the House and it shall thereupon be deemed to have been laid upon the Table.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** I am sure your caucus is very happy.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Not only is my caucus very happy about this initiative, Mr. Speaker, it is one which I think will meet with some approbation from the people of Canada. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that in terms of these disclosures these are reasonable proposals which we are putting forward. They are for the consideration of the committee which is chaired by the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme). I think the committee will be able to consider these recommendations and receive representations from interested parties and Members of the House.

This particular initiative was one which was indicated in the remarks of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) on September 9. We hope to have the unanimous support of all Parties with respect to the proposals, the motion and the thrust. I appreciate very much the serious attention which Hon. Members have given to this important matter.

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, some days prior to the Minister's statement, which we have just heard, I said publicly outside this Chamber that I looked positively on the idea of a registry of Members' travel. Certainly, we of the Official Opposition look positively on the concept as set out in the draft motion read to us today by the Government House