

General. If the Hon. Member has any specific recommendations to make, I would be pleased to receive them.

TRUSTEES OF BLIND TRUSTS

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, let me ask the Deputy Prime Minister for this assurance, because when I met this morning with the Assistant Deputy Registrar General he refused to give me the assurance that none of the Ministers have among their blind trustees spouses, business associates, or riding association executives. No such assurance was given to me by the official to whom I spoke this morning and I would ask the Deputy Prime Minister for that assurance.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, here we go again. The Hon. Member is perpetuating innuendo in his question and is implying that that is the case. I cannot give him that categorical assurance right at the present time but I will undertake to find out.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT ESTABLISH PUBLIC JUDICIAL INQUIRY

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I think that what the Deputy Prime Minister has just stated is very serious, and since the question of standards with regard to conflicts of interest does not involve criminal law in Canada, nor the current investigation by the RCMP, I would like to ask him whether he is ready to give Canadians a public judicial inquiry in order to give us all the facts on those issues and others.

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am really surprised that that question is coming from an Hon. Member who is a former Solicitor General. He knows very well that it is the considered opinion of the senior law officers of the Crown, of legal experts across the country, and of most people who have looked at this matter in a serious way that anything that would impair, impede or interfere with the RCMP investigation at this time would certainly not be in the best interests of seeing justice carried out.

OERLIKON CORPORATION—EMPLOYMENT OF FORMER BRIGADIER-GENERAL

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. On June 12, 1986, when the \$1-billion contract was awarded to Oerlikon, Mr. J. B. Peart was the Chief of Staff of the then Minister of Defence and subsequently became a senior policy adviser to the present Minister. What information did Mr. Peart give to the Assistant Deputy Registrar General to convince him that Mr. Peart had no significant official dealings during the period of one year immediately prior to the termination of his service in public office? Would he table the relevant data in the House?

Oral Questions

• (1420)

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, because of the privacy legislation I cannot table the letter sent by Brigadier-General Peart. I can say that in the letter he indicated to the Assistant Deputy Registrar General that, first, he was not involved with the dossier, that it was handled by the office of the Associate Minister of National Defence. Secondly, he had joined the staff of my predecessor after the short list had been drawn up for the awarding of the LLAD contract.

MINISTER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Defence will know that the Assistant Deputy Registrar General does not do in-depth investigations. The ultimate responsibility for compliance rests with the Minister. What did the Minister do to ensure that Mr. Peart was not in an apparent conflict of interest? In other words, what transpired between the Minister and Mr. Peart to avoid this apparent conflict of interest?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, in this case I did what I would do with any employee looking to go to the private sector. I asked him to comply fully with the conflict of interest guidelines, to disclose fully to the Assistant Deputy Registrar General, to seek the advice of the Assistant Deputy Registrar General, and to follow it.

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FISHERIES

CANADA-FRANCE AGREEMENT—EFFECT ON NEWFOUNDLAND COD FISHERY

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Yesterday the news of an interim agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of France concerning fishing of our northern cod stocks off the coast of Newfoundland leaked out, producing outrage in that province. The industry opposes this agreement. The unions affected oppose it. The Government of Newfoundland opposes it. Therefore, how could the Government of Canada ever agree to something which is totally opposed by the people of Newfoundland?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I indicated to the media yesterday that the agreement reached between Canada and France on the weekend would be released as soon as editorial measures were completed. That release has taken place in this hour. The agreement will move us along the road to resolving a very unsatisfactory situation, the boundary dispute between Canada and France, which must be resolved in the long-term interests