

appear to benefit, from the use of information acquired during the course of their official duties, which information is not generally available to the public.

Fourth principle: Public servants should not place themselves in a position where they could derive any direct or indirect benefit or interest from any Government contracts over which they can influence decisions.

Fifth principle: All public servants are expected to disclose to their superiors, in a manner to be notified, all business, commercial or financial interests where such interests might conceivably be construed as being in actual or potential conflict with their official duties.

Sixth principle: Public servants should hold no outside office or employment that could place on them demands inconsistent with their official duties or call into question their capacity to perform those duties in an objective manner.

And finally, seventh and last principle: Public servants should not accord, in the performance of their official duties, preferential treatment to relatives or friends or to organizations in which they or their relatives or friends have an interest, financial or otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, those principles adopted in 1973 have never been amended, neither by this Government nor by the Official Opposition when they were the Government in 1979. Indeed they were used by the Progressive Conservative Government in 1979 to develop guidelines for their Cabinet Ministers. As I said earlier, an office within my department is responsible for administering on behalf of the Prime Minister the guidelines to be observed by Ministers of the Crown concerning conflict of interest situations. Those same guidelines apply to a number of designated ministerial staff members. Indeed, besides ministers of the Crown and designated personnel, more than 250 persons are subject to the guidelines and had to follow the procedures provided for in order to be protected. The Assistant Deputy Registrar General confirmed to me over the week-end, Mr. Speaker, that all subjected personnel, Cabinet Ministers and others, have followed the prescribed procedures and obtained either from the Prime Minister, or the Assistant Deputy Registrar General approval for the procedures they had to follow in order to meet the requirements of the guidelines. In some cases, of course, it is quite easy for a young assistant, for instance, to comply. But some people have had to make enormous personal sacrifice in order to meet the requirements and enjoy the privilege of working for the Government. No doubt, when our friends opposite formed the Government, they faced the same difficulties. I remember the former Minister of Finance and his wife had difficulty accepting such guideline requirements. But it is important to stress one thing that our friends opposite have totally sidestepped in their discussions and allegations, namely that those who must relinquish certain freedoms in order to serve the Government must know that in so doing they will not become the targets of malicious attacks or innuendoes when after serving the Government they go back to the private sector, resume some of their activities and

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undertake to work once again on their own. Clearly, if there are to be trials of intents, if all those who at one time or other have served as Cabinet Ministers within the Canadian Government are to be maligned, many men and women currently in the private sector who could enter politics and play an interesting role serving their country, who could make a significant contribution, will be most reluctant to do so, if we are to go on tolerating that kind of innuendoes and ill will as are now faced by some former Ministers who served their fellow Canadians with honour and dignity within the Canadian Government.

I submit that such trials of intents at this point, when there is no evidence—and I stress no evidence whatsoever—that those people enjoyed preferential treatment clearly are an unfair and unwarranted attack that does not serve the public interest and most certainly undermines the feeling some citizens could have for public life. And I suggest that those Hon. Members of the Opposition who are making these accusations and innuendoes are taking on a very heavy responsibility and they should have a guilty conscience for misleading the public in this way and for ruining the reputation of politicians who, Heaven knows, do not deserve to be treated in this way, for they have very difficult, exacting and demanding duties to carry out.

To conclude, therefore, I suggest that today's motion once again misses the point. I remind Hon. Members that in 1978 the Government had introduced a Bill respecting the independence of Parliament and conflicts of interest. At that time, the Opposition in its usual fashion, had not deemed necessary to let the Bill pass. The legislative calendar then was very heavy, just as it is today. There were then a great many good bills which died on the Order Paper because of filibustering by the Opposition. If that Bill had been adopted at the time, there would not be such a debate today.

• (1550)

[*English*]

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I listened with considerable interest to the Minister and his rather emotional and defensive defence, if I might be permitted to put it that way, over this very innocent and worthy motion we put forward for debate today. I cannot for the life of me understand what the concern is on the Government side. They rant and rave about this motion having something to do with an attack on the integrity of politicians on the Liberal side, yet the motion is very straightforward and simple. It makes no reference to Mr. Gillespie or the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde). It makes no reference to the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. MacEachen). It makes no reference to Donald Macdonald, who took an appointment to the Board of Directors of McDonnell-Douglas Corporation within the two-year period when he was negotiating with the former Department of the Minister of Finance with respect to the F-18 aircraft. It makes no mention of Mr. Judd Buchanan with respect to his transaction in Banff