

*Tabling of Documents*

such as the new conflict of interest/post-employment code for public office holders are ready for implementation. The code will take effect on January 1, 1986, once the necessary infrastructure is in place. In the interim, Ministers and Governor in Council appointees will conduct themselves in accordance with its provisions.

Other elements, such as the experimental program of parliamentary scrutiny of Order in Council appointments, will be refined through discussion with Leaders of the Opposition and with the benefit of experience. We would like to consult, again, the distinguished Members, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee on the Reform of the House of Commons.

Still others, such as the review of the judicial appointments process, will require more consultation with the Canadian Bar Association before detailed proposals can be advanced.

[Translation]

For the first time in this country's history, Mr. Speaker, the government has laid before Parliament a broad program of initiatives concerning public sector ethics.

This is tangible proof that the government is determined to see to it that the affairs of state are conducted according to the very highest standards.

[English]

Rather than dealing at some length with each component orally, I have tabled today an open letter to Members of Parliament and Senators which delineates each of the seven components in summary form, highlighting the most important aspects which Members should consider.

[Translation]

As indicated in the document I have just tabled, it provides a set of reform measures that reflect the Government's intention, and I would add that of all parliamentarians, to adopt a standard of ethics that will meet with the respect of all Canadians. In this way, we want to strengthen the economic renewal process and enhance the faith of Canadians in our Government institutions.

Many of these measures have been awaited for some time, and sometimes, Mr. Speaker, this Government would have wished that they were already in place. They now are or are about to become so, and we can look forward, in the near future, to a new era of confidence and respect.

● (1510)

[English]

The documents, the ideas and the propositions, Mr. Speaker, are placed before all Hon. Members of Parliament today in the genuine belief that they will enhance the respect which Canadians must have for Parliament as a noble institution.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** I believe I just heard the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) at his unctuous best attempting, presumably in a non-partisan fashion,

to disguise the most blatant series of partisan appointments over the last year than we have had in the history of our country.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** The Prime Minister has spoken about civility in this House. I received a copy of the documents which were just tabled and a copy of the statement the Prime Minister has just read at one thirty this afternoon, a half hour before Parliament assembled for Question Period. I do not know whether my friend, the Leader of the New Democratic Party, received earlier communication.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** It was in accordance with our arrangements.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** It is absolutely impossible for any member of the Opposition, particularly myself and my colleague, the Leader of the New Democratic Party, with our responsibilities, to respond with some clarity and with some profound appreciation of what is in that pile of documents.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Never complain and never explain, John.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** I will say as well, of course, that I am suspicious. The House Leader may protest but he knows how the business of the House ought to be conducted.

**An Hon. Member:** He's a dummy, anyway.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** He knows.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** I am also suspicious of the coincidence of the timing of the tabling of these documents today. The Government is faced with a bank scandal. The Government is faced with a financial Titanic and it hopes that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) may be able to pre-empt the news and distract the attention of the country and of the media by this little subterfuge.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Chrétien:** The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) is running away now.

**Ms. Copps:** Run away, Mike.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Bye, bye, Mike.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** The Minister of Finance has just left the House shaking his head. We hope he will stand in this House tomorrow and defend the issues for which he has statutory responsibility.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Right on.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** The issues of the guidelines and the conflicts of interest, Mr. Speaker, arose in this House several months ago. Why the delay? Why do we have to