

have a set of regulations that are so tight that no one will get away with it and no one will be able to be accused of conflict of interest. That is my objective, and that is why I am anxious to get on with the discussion of the green paper in committee.

**Mr. Reynolds:** Would the hon. member answer a short question?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** That can only be done with the consent of the hon. member.

**Mr. Herbert:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Reynolds:** The hon. member quoted something out of a newspaper, and then he quoted some words. I know where the quotes were coming from, but can he tell us who was the speaker in the second quote?

**Mr. Herbert:** Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the gentleman has not read the green paper because, after my initial quotation, my other quotations were from the green paper which we are supposed to be studying tonight.

**Mr. Reynolds:** The hon. member said he was quoting out of a newspaper.

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be participating in this debate. Although we on this side will try to keep our speeches down to about 10 minutes, I will not find that very difficult because I do not want to make too many comments about the previous speaker, the hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert). Although one can get into a discussion on semantics about the honoured name of his constituency, I felt that part of his argument, to which I listened with great interest, fell within the confines of vaudeville because obviously there must be a difference in the conflict of interest of a cabinet minister and that of a member of parliament due to the difference in their responsibilities and duties and in the exercise of discretion between the two. If the hon. member does not appreciate that, then to have a meaningful debate on this subject will become very difficult indeed.

Having said that, let me say that I fully agree with the hon. member that this is not a simple situation of resolving whether a member is to be here full-time or part-time. During the hon. member's speech someone interjected, "How about farmers and fishermen?" We could even mention lady members of parliament involved in the women's liberation movement.

This whole matter is so involved and complicated that obviously it must be considered in committee. As to cabinet ministers, there have been some remarks made by members opposite regarding different attitudes and responsibilities of cabinet ministers and members of parliament in this chamber and in the Mother of Parliaments.

To have listened to some of the comments here and in the question period during the last two or three days defies description. I must say that I am glad that the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Goyer) and the Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Drury) came back to the House. If there was any revelation at all on the problem of conflict of interest it was in the latter's question to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield).

### *Conflict of Interest*

He asked if the definition of conflict of interest was, in effect, a participation in public office for private gain. If that is the hon. minister's concept of this debate he is revealed in his nakedness of knowledge on this subject more than the emperor who was wearing no clothes.

• (1750)

Obviously while profit could be a factor, it is the public perception of the office that is important. It would be just the same thing if a doctor, who was an eminent citizen in a town, owned and operated a funeral parlor. There would be a public perception on the part of the citizens as to whether the doctor was discharging his full duty under the laws of medicine—dependent on the business that might be going on in the funeral parlor! But I would repeat that it is the public perception of the office that is important.

In that respect, Mr. Speaker, and because communications has been my responsibility under my leader in this party, I have a matter to bring before this House. This is the proper place to bring up the matter of the interests of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Jamieson). I sent him notice of my intention to raise the question, and I am glad to see he is in the House.

I should like to say, Mr. Speaker, that anything I say in the next few minutes will not be intended to reflect in any way on my personal relationships and associations with the minister. But I feel very sincerely that having had six years and five months to divest himself, either by blind trust or frozen trust, of shares in the Newfoundland Broadcasting Company Limited, and having failed to do so, he comes within the area of conflict of interest. He is a minister of the Crown, and an agency of the Crown, the CRTC, is involved with licence applications. I might add that there are three shareholders in the Newfoundland Broadcasting Company Limited.

The minister was first appointed to cabinet on July 6, 1968, when he was made minister of defence production. He then became in turn minister of supply and services, minister of transport and communications, which was very directly connected with the whole question of assignment of radio frequencies and the technical studies that determine whether there should be a radio station, and now he is Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, which department has many interests in eastern Canada and has contractual relationships with the Newfoundland Broadcasting Company, Limited through advertising, as well as with the other media in Atlantic Canada.

I am not digging into the history of the Newfoundland Broadcasting Company, Limited, Mr. Speaker, although I appreciate that at the moment some epithets are being thrown back and forth between the former premier of Newfoundland, the only living father of Confederation, Mr. Smallwood, with allegations about how the company was formed, and Mr. Pickersgill, and the minister. The CBC took a long time to get to St. John's, finally getting there in 1964.

As I have pointed out already, there are three shareholders in the company. The minister's brother has one share, Mr. Jeff Stirling has 151 shares, and the minister has 148 shares or 49.33 per cent of the total shares, so he has a natural and substantive interest in the undertaking.