

*Routine Proceedings*

The other side of the coin is what this government is doing to Inger Hansen. Inger Hansen is a distinguished Canadian public servant. Let me quote from the comments made by Mr. MacGuigan when he was moving her appointment, comments which were concurred in by all sides of this House. I quote from page 25797 of *Hansard* of May 27, 1983:

Today, Ms. Hansen has earned the right to call herself Canada's senior ombudsman, having been in the field for ten years. In addition, she has built a solid international reputation for herself and for Canada in the ombudsman and data production fields. Over the past several years she has been active in the International Ombudsman's Association as a member of its planning committee. She is also a very active member of the International Association of Data Commissioners. She has chaired two of the latter group's recent annual meetings: in 1980 when Ms. Hansen hosted the meeting in Ottawa and again, by special request of the conference, in London this past summer. In all, Inger Hansen legitimately lays claim to a vast national and international network of friends and associates.

Mr. Baker was equally effusive. The member for Burnaby, as he was at that time, was equally effusive.

Inger Hansen, however, has apparently irritated the Prime Minister. She, in her job, has said that the government has failed to do its job under the Access to Information Act. As a result, not only was she not reappointed, according to public statements she was not even given the courtesy of a telephone call. She simply ran out her term. This government has failed to deal honourably with someone who has served this government, the people of Canada, and this Parliament for 18 years.

This is a bad appointment. The government should withdraw the bill and should engage in a process of fair and genuine consultation with all parties in this Parliament before proceeding further.

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the hon. member. Since partisanship makes it impossible for people to be even handed later on, how does he feel about the appointment of Ed Broadbent and Ian Deans to two very important positions in which they are expected to be impartial and to fulfil the responsibilities required of them under the mandate of their particular agencies?

What qualities does he believe they have that enable them to put their partisan pasts behind them and operate in an even handed fashion fulfilling their responsibilities

which are somehow unavailable to those who might attach their allegiances to this party for some brief period of their life?

**Mr. Brewin:** Mr. Speaker, the intervention from the House leader demonstrates the government's complete blind spot on this point.

No one would suggest for a minute, nor is this House suggesting it, that Bruce Phillips could not handle a hundred different jobs for the people of Canada. That is not the issue. He worked for the Prime Minister however, and he is now being put in a position in which he is expected to be critical of the government on behalf of the people of Canada and of this Parliament.

If the House had been asked about the appointment of Mr. Broadbent and there had been significant disagreement, perhaps that appointment should not have been made. If the House had been asked about Mr. Deans and there had been significant disagreement, the same may be true. However that is not the issue. They are not servants of Parliament. They are appointed by Order in Council to particular positions established under legislation.

This position is a position of Parliament. The precedent was established in 1983 that it was a unanimous appointment of this House. That precedent was a sound one, and it should have been followed in this case.

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, I do not see the connection of trying to link Mr. Grace and Mr. Phillips together. Mr. Grace was appointed seven years ago. Mr. Turner was not even a member of Parliament at that particular time. He came from the post of editor of *The Ottawa Journal* which certainly was not considered a Liberal newspaper. The fact is that he had that one appointment.

Here we are talking about Bruce Phillips. The Minister of Justice says that we have been hard on Bruce Phillips. I have not heard anyone being hard on Bruce Phillips. No one is questioning his integrity at all. In fact everybody is going overboard to be extra nice to Bruce Phillips.

The fact is that he has worked in the Office the Prime Minister. He has also received an appointment from the government to our embassy in the United States. This