

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Crosbie:** Come on! Stop stalling!

**Mr. La Salle:** Do you remember?

**Mr. Lalonde:** Yes, I have the answer to this, and I can immediately tell the Hon. Member that if it were a question of my capacity to fulfil my functions, he does not have to worry. I am able to reach these decisions quite well, and the Prime Minister, also. But as far as the answer to the question is concerned, the question should be addressed to the Minister responsible for the Department.

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

**Mr. Crosbie:** Very weak applause.

**Mr. Nielsen:** It is precisely—

**Mr. Crosbie:** What are you hiding?

**Mr. Nielsen:** It is precisely, Madam Speaker, the Minister's exercise of judgment that may affect his capacity to continue. However, since, he refuses to answer the question, may I direct the question to the—

**Mr. Trudeau:** Not since he refused.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I am sorry, I did not hear the Prime Minister's interjection.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I said, not since he refused. It is because you misdirected it.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. No debate across the floor, please.

**Some Hon. Members:** Go get him.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Right.

**Some Hon. Members:** We want Joe.

**Mr. Nielsen:** If the Prime Minister is patient, I will have a question to ask him, to wind up.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Thank you.

## SIGNATORY TO AGREEMENT

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition):** May I direct this question to the present Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources? Did his predecessor, on behalf of the Government of Canada, on June 30, 1981, sign an agreement between the Government of Canada, the Government of Nova Scotia, and Alastair Gillespie Associates, for the purpose of implementing a plan to turn Cape Breton Coal into liquid fuel on a commercial basis for use in transportation?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I am aware of this project. I think it is a project that is a very valid one.

**Some Hon. Members:** Answer the question.

**Mr. Chrétien:** It involves the development in Cape Breton of some economic activities which are very much needed, and of course I know that Mr. Gillespie is involved. He has been out of the Cabinet for a long time. He is an expert in the field.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Not long enough.

**Mr. Chrétien:** I am sure people involved in that project are happy to have an expert working with them.

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

**Mr. Nielsen:** A translation, Madam Speaker, of that rather weaselly answer—

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

**Mr. Nielsen:** —is an admission that that agreement described by me was in fact signed by his predecessor on behalf of the Government of Canada, involving, as it did, funds ranging from seed money of some \$900,000 by three Crown corporations, and a joint investment of \$1 million between the federal Government and the Nova Scotia Government—

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Nielsen:** —to capital put up by Mr. Gillespie and Associates of \$25,000.

● (1420)

I want to draw the attention of the Prime Minister to the guidelines that he issued on April 28—

**Some Hon. Members:** Order, order!

**Madam Speaker:** Order. I think the Hon. Member could now ask a question about the guidelines, but I feel it would further prolong the question, which was already long, if he quoted from the guidelines. He may ask a question about them, of course.

## MINISTERIAL CONDUCT

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, on April 28, 1980, the Prime Minister issued guidelines to his Ministers. Mr. Gillespie ceased being a Minister on June 4, 1979. One of those guidelines stipulates, and I read from Appendix 2, paragraph 2 as follows:

In any official dealings with former office holders—

That is Mr. Gillespie.

—Ministers—

That is the Minister of Finance.

—must ensure that they do not provide grounds or the appearance of grounds for allegations of improper influence, privileged access or preferential treatment.

Has the Prime Minister examined the conduct of his previous Minister of Energy, now the Minister of Finance, in order to determine whether there has been compliance with that guideline?