

Conflict of Interest

The height of their standards is the gutter. We have seen evidence of that. These are not figments of the imagination and the people of Canada are responding to it.

I suggest that you read the latest polls. When asked which leader reflects honesty and integrity the Prime Minister is not the first choice. He does not emulate those qualities. He does not show leadership in those qualities for Canadians. After all, 26 million Canadians cannot be wrong.

Expecting me to believe that Bill C-114 has arrived on our desks for debate as a result of an evolutionary process is like expecting me to believe that Moby Dick once existed as a minnow. That is crazy. There is no Canadian in this country who would believe that.

Let me give you another example. Everyone heard about the Gucci shoes. The Prime Minister received a \$158,000 loan from the PC Canada Fund. The guidelines said that loans had to be declared. That came out as a result of the Côté deal. It was then discovered that the Prime Minister got a loan. He said that it was not a loan but an advance. When is a loan an advance, Mr. Speaker? When the Prime Minister gets it. Then he said that he paid it back. If you give me an advance and I pay it back, is that not a loan? Of course it is a loan. Canadians are not simple-minded, they understand that. One of the clauses in this Bill is called the Gucci clause.

Mrs. Maily: Mr. Speaker, we are very much amused but we are afraid our colleague will have another heart attack. He is not being relevant to the Bill, apart from the fact that he is being dishonest in the way he is presenting his so-called facts. I would like him at least to be relevant while he is entertaining us.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McKinnon): I am sure the Hon. Member is going to touch on the Bill occasionally during his oration.

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, I can understand why the Conservatives are so sensitive. We are debating principle on Bill C-114 which talks about truth and honesty, and that is what I am talking about. They are trying to tell me that the Gucci shoes did not exist. Of course they did.

The Minister who introduced this Bill for second reading and spoke on it first compared it to a football game. I want to compare it to a boxing match. The image is that Bill C-114 is a peak-a-boo Bill, now you see it, now you don't. It's the Cassius Clay stance, the peak-a-boo stance. Every time you think it's there, it is not. When you think you have an opening to take a punch, you find it is closed, the gloves are there and your punch gets picked off.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Rodriguez: It is obvious that I have them on the ropes, Mr. Speaker, and now I am going to deliver the knock-out punch. I am going to give them the left upper-cut. Of course it will be a left upper-cut. This Bill was introduced by the Prime Minister himself back in February. It is now August, the dying days of this Parliament, and at the eleventh hour Bill C-114 is put forward for debate and we have some more scandals brewing.

● (1730)

We heard the Member for LaSalle (Mr. Lanthier) talk about crumbs falling off the table. One Member said that if he told what he knew he could put 12 people in jail.

An Hon. Member: Oh, come on!

Mr. Rodriguez: It is not New Democrats who are saying that. It is Conservatives. They are not only shooting themselves in the foot, but in the head. That is not difficult if they can find it.

Why have the Conservatives brought the Bill in at this last minute? They do not want to pass the Bill. It is as simple as that. They want no change in the rules. They are not even being honest about Bill C-114.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Rodriguez: They do not want an effective conflict of interest law. You know that the Bill will not pass when an election is called within the next couple of weeks.

We paid several million dollars for the Parker Commission report. Maybe we ought to look at what Justice Parker had to say about conflict of interest. I want to quote Justice Parker. Justice Parker said that the key—

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Can the Hon. Member give us the page he is quoting in the Parker report?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McKinnon): The Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez).

Mr. Rodriguez: Justice Parker said: "In my view—"

Mr. Stevens: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Riis: That is not a point of order.

Mr. Stevens: Can the Hon. Member give us the page that he is quoting from in the Parker report so that we are assured he is not reading it out of context?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McKinnon): That is not a proper point of order. It is up to the Hon. Member whether he does or does not do so.