

Oral Questions

There is now a 6 per cent spread between some interest paid to customers and interest charged to a borrower.

Banks must be made responsible to the public and must share some fiscal payment to reduce the deficit of the federal Government. Banks should not be looked on as loan sharks but rather as respectable businesses in our society. This can only be attained if they change their ways.

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THE ADMINISTRATION**CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE**

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I know it is extremely unfair to quote the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) using his own words but I will do so anyway. On September 9, 1985, the Prime Minister sent a letter to Members of Parliament in which he said about conflict of interests:

We have taken great pains to ensure that the new Code leaves no doubt that the ultimate responsibility for the ethical standards of the federal Government rests with the Cabinet and, more particularly, with me.

He said further:

In carrying out that responsibility the Government is directly accountable to Parliament and through Parliament to the people of Canada. You will find no quasi independent agencies in this Code that will allow the Government to shirk its responsibility by saying that the problem belongs to someone else. Nor will you find anything which will relieve me and my colleagues of the necessity of exercising judgment.

Very clearly, Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has failed to exercise judgment when he has maintained in the past that there was no conflict of interest in relation to the issue involving the Member of Parliament for York Peel (Mr. Stevens). Very clearly the Prime Minister has misled the people of Canada—inadvertently probably, of course.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member just saved himself, I guess, by saying it was inadvertent misleading. But whether that “inadvertent” came out as the Speaker rose, I will never know.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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CHILD CARE**NATIONAL STRATEGY—INCREASED TAX CREDITS AND EXEMPTIONS**

Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, yesterday in this House the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) tabled the federal response to the report of the Special Committee on Child Care, of which I was a member. I would like to compliment the Minister on his announcement. The strategy acknowledges that Canadian

parents should have the choice of child care for their own children. Tax assistance initiatives will respect their choice.

Many low and middle-income families who care for their children at home, or who have a friend or relative care for their children, will be eligible for a new supplement to the refundable child tax credit. This will be increased by \$200 a year for a child six years and under. This increase will be phased in over the 1988 and 1989 tax years.

The existing deduction for receipted child care expenses will increase to \$4,000 for a child aged six and under, or a child with special needs.

This strategy in no way usurps the provinces' authority but is done in concert and to augment the provincial Governments' child care policies. The National Strategy on Child Care recognizes that parental choice is paramount by offering to families a policy which will help all Canadians.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE ADMINISTRATION**PARKER COMMISSION REPORT—CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE**

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. On April 30, 1986, I asked the then Deputy Prime Minister about the conduct of the Hon. Member for York—Peel. The Deputy Prime Minister in that Question Period made the following statement:

● (1120)

—the responsibility of the Prime Minister to the House and to the country is to ensure that there has been full compliance with the code of conduct which has been established for the guidance of Ministers of the Crown. That responsibility has been discharged. The Prime Minister, the Government, and I are satisfied that there has been full compliance with the code of conduct by the Minister.

That was in April, 1986. I think it is important, on the day following the close of a sorry episode in the life of this Government, the expenditure of over \$3 million, the disgrace of a Minister, that we find out here what the Government and the Prime Minister have learned from it all. Does the Prime Minister acknowledge his own responsibility, that his assurance to the House was false that the Hon. Member for York—Peel had done nothing wrong—

Mr. Speaker: The House will understand the difficulty that the Chair can be in with respect to this particular subject.

Hon. Members have every right, of course, to ask questions concerning the general issue. However, I wish to make it very clear that the Chair will not allow questions or preambles to amount to a charge of any type against any Member in this place.