

Oral Questions

Is this not a clear signal that the Minister is not prepared to listen to anybody except his friends on Bay Street and St. James Street?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the committee has made a number of recommendations. I have not commented specifically, one way or the other, on any of the recommendations. I do not propose to make any statements or any specific comments one way or the other.

The Hon. Member may have drawn some conclusions. I would suggest to him that he may have drawn some improper conclusions from the comments I have made. I will be quite clear, though, sometime in December when the Ways and Means Motion is tabled.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS—ALLEGED TOLL-GATING

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. It concerns the allegations of toll-gating in the riding of Trois-Rivières. Yesterday I asked the Prime Minister when the Prime Minister's office received the tape of the Chastenay-Levasseur conversation, and the Government refused to answer.

Did the Office of the Prime Minister telephone or otherwise contact Mr. Chastenay after receiving the tape recording and, if it made such a phone call, what was the purpose of the communication?

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, as I advised the House yesterday and as the Hon. Member well knows, this matter is under active investigation by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and it would be quite improper for us to comment on any facets or matters involving this investigation.

Mr. Boudria: I do not know if I heard correctly but I was asking about a phone call. Surely the Minister is not telling us that the Prime Minister's phone calls are under criminal investigation. I want to ask a question of the Deputy Prime Minister.

[Translation]

QUERY WHEN GOVERNMENT WILL TABLE TEXT OF NEW
CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister who is responsible for public morality, always in connection with the allegations of kickbacks in the constituency of Trois-Rivières . . . In view of the difficulties, and even the scandals surrounding the Government, when does the Deputy Prime Minister intend to table in this House the new guidelines on conflicts of interest

that were promised in the last Throne speech? In addition, will he tell us what other steps he intends to take in order to clean up this Conservative Government's act?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, if there are any changes, they will be announced in the usual manner.

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TRADE

TAX ON LUMBER EXPORTS

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for International Trade who will know that Canada's lumber producers are again being victimized by American competition. In an exact reversal of the situation that her 15 per cent export tax was intended to correct, American producers are now taking Canadian sales in Canadian markets because they have been able to reduce their unit costs by increasing production.

Since this is *de facto* dumping and obviously contrary to the spirit of the free trade agreement, what will the Minister do to attempt to ensure that her tax is not costing Canadian lumber producers Canadian markets?

• (1500)

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I think it is a very timely question considering that the Member is from a Party which said that the softwood lumber industry would be facing doom and gloom with the imposition of an export tax designed to keep the money in Canada and out of Washington.

I can point out to the Hon. Member that Canadian softwood lumber production throughout the country has set new records throughout 1987 and that many of the firms are having a record profit year. In British Columbia, the forest products industry is on its way to a record breaking profit year. The allegations the Member has made about the loss of markets in Canada cannot be substantiated by our figures.

IMPORTS OF UNITED STATES LUMBER

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, by way of a supplementary question which I will address to the Minister who appears willing deliberately to confuse price and volume—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Parry: —I would like to point out that industry spokesmen have said that this market loss is taking place because American producers are now able to sell into Canada at \$20 per thousand board feet less than Canadian producers