

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge—Foothills):** Mr. Speaker, my friend opposite knows that for some seven years he and I have sat together on the Justice Committee, and that the Justice Committee, through its steering committee, will take up any topic any Member of Parliament raises before it. We will give it a full and fair hearing and decide what course of action we will follow at that time.

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**FORESTRY****FUNDING OF SILVICULTURE RESEARCH IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey—White Rock—North Delta):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Science and Technology. The new softwood lumber agreement between Canada and the United States has provided new funds for the provinces to develop the forestry industry which have not been available to them before. These funds would be very useful to the scientific community to develop silviculture in a scientific way to rejuvenate, particularly, B.C. forests. Would the Minister undertake to discuss with officials in British Columbia ways of establishing, for example, a heritage fund?

Since the scientific community cannot use all the funds quickly and still use them properly in order to rejuvenate B.C. forests would he discuss with B.C. officials the possibility of establishing a heritage fund so that we can have the long-term benefits of these new funds?

**Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend and colleague advances a very interesting proposition. It is certainly worthy of consideration, particularly in a province like British Columbia. As my friend knows, the funds will accrue to the province. I will undertake to discuss this proposition with Premier Vander Zalm and, far-seeing and visionary as he is, I am sure he will embrace the idea.

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

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**THE ADMINISTRATION****OERLIKON CONTRACT—POSSIBLE ROLE OF MR. SAM WAKIM**

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Sam Wakim, the close personal friend of the Prime Minister from college days, is back in the news. After delivering the \$20 million a year legal business of the Export Development Corporation to his firm in Toronto, and over the Christmas break arranging for two of the partners to become judges of the High Court of Ontario, one of whom was his former campaign manager, he appears to have—

**Some Hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Just a moment.

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

**Mr. Jelinek:** Innuendoes left, right, and centre.

**Mr. Speaker:** I know the Hon. Member for York Centre has a question. I hope that question will not involve the propriety or otherwise of members of the Bench. I would ask the Hon. Member to be most careful.

**Mr. Kaplan:** My simple question to the Deputy Prime Minister is to confirm that Sam Wakim, as was mentioned in Shirley Walker's diary revealed before the Parker Commission, arranged a meeting on behalf of Oerlikon to lobby DRIE—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I must say to the Hon. Member for York Centre that the Chair is having difficulty here. I know it is appropriate sometimes to lay out some facts upon which a question should be based. However, with respect, the Hon. Member has gone on for a little too long in the preamble, and I would ask him to put his question.

**Mr. Kaplan:** Can the Deputy Prime Minister confirm, or will he investigate and confirm, that Sam Wakim lobbied on behalf of Oerlikon-Litton for the low level air defence contract with the Department of Supply and Services, or with DRIE, or with the Prime Minister or the Prime Minister's Office?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, here we go again dropping names by the Hon. Member and attempting to smear the character of individuals and engage in innuendo, such as the Hon. Member for Sudbury suggested that no one in the House should do. The Hon. Member makes quite a habit of it. There is a police investigation. If there is any wrongdoing associated with anyone and if he has any evidence that there is wrongdoing, he should tell the RCMP.

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

**CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, let me simply ask aren't the Canadian people entitled to conclude from the spectacles we have seen and the revelations we have had that to do business with this Government you have to operate through close personal friends of the Prime Minister?

**An Hon. Member:** Order.

**An Hon. Member:** Right on.

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, that kind of question does not deserve the dignity of an answer. I am surprised that a long-standing Member—