and standards. I do not know where the reluctance is to bring forward strict new codes and legislation with regard to conflict of interest. I do not know where we have the continued failure to establish and adhere to clear and high standards of public sector service.

The resolution is a crock. The resolution does Parliament no favour. This is despicable. It is the kind of resolution that the Liberal Party ought now to stand with their next speakers and denounce. It is not a resolution that does any of us as parliamentarians any good. It hurts all of us. It is the old story of dig out the laundry, spread it out, cough it up and slime it out.

I say to the members of the Official Opposition that I think they ought to recant right now. I think they ought to withdraw this resolution.

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I listened to the member attentively. He knows I have a tremendous amount of respect for him. Quite frankly, I thought a lot of his remarks and ideas on how we could improve the existing rules concerning conflict of interest and lobbying guidelines, et cetera, were right on the money.

If I remember correctly, it was either yesterday or today that the member stood up in this House during Question Period and put a question to his own government House leader urging his government to move forward on the issue of ethics in government, which is the conflict of interest package. I wonder how that question that you put forward to your government House leader is any different from today when we are basically assisting the question the member advanced to the government House leader yesterday by saying that it is a matter of urgency and it is pressing.

I certainly support the view that there should not be any personal name calling. I think my record in this House on that issue stands by itself, but I do believe that the issue of trust in government and the fact that the current systems are not working—this is acknowledged by the member—is something we must address. The House is about to adjourn and once again another four-year period will have lapsed and some of the very concerns that the member has mentioned repeatedly in this House over the last eight years will not have been addressed.

I think to try to bring it to a head is a constructive exercise.

Mr. Blenkarn: Mr. Speaker, I want to remind the member that the government House leader made a pretty clear declaration as to what would happen. It is not perhaps unknown to him that I might even have checked as to what was happening with the legislation before I asked the question.

I make no apologies for that because sometimes the way to get something across in this House is to do it that way.

I want to say this to the member. We are going to have a bill that was approved by this House unanimously. I do not think it does the system of Parliament any favour to have someone stand here and read old press clippings naming, slurring, slandering, gouging up and burping up accusations against individuals whether they are correct or incorrect or proven or not proven.

I think we have to understand this as members of Parliament. If we want to have public respect then we have to act in a respectable fashion one to each other.

I do not believe there is any merit in accusing someone of something unless it can be proven.

• (1730)

The minister earlier today on this issue said to a member: "If you are going to make the accusation, make it. Remember the rule around here. If you cannot prove your allegation, you resign. You put your seat on the line".

That was always the rule around here, but people slither around it. The slithering around hurts us all. It tears away at our reputation.

The member for Broadview—Greenwood did pretty well. He can do it very well. He does not have to be here to earn $64,000 a year. As far as he is concerned that is probably penny ante. He does not make a big thing out of being a member of Parliament but he works darned hard at it. He does not want his reputation slandered by people saying: "Parliamentarians did this. Parliamentarians did that. This member did that. That member did this".