

Oral Questions

tions Canada has not yet made the names public, which makes me wonder why he thinks there were Reform funds.

Will the Prime Minister table the entire list of those who attended and those who contributed?

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, our colleague has some good information because I gave it to her no later than this morning. She is flaunting around a piece of paper alleging to contain the right information.

The Speaker: I ask the hon. minister to please not use the paper as a prop.

Mr. Dupuy: If she wants me to compare what is on her list with the truth I will be glad to do so either in the House or personally with her.

Mrs. Jan Brown (Calgary Southeast, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I asked for the entire list and I do not want to hear the Minister of Canadian Heritage question whether I am telling the truth in the House.

The code of conduct set by the Prime Minister for his cabinet ministers is so low that even Brian Mulroney could pass the test. The Prime Minister has insisted he will not investigate this mess, nor will the ethics counsellor. Even Brian Mulroney had the RCMP investigate the LaSalle dinner, a dinner not very different from this one.

Will the Prime Minister direct the RCMP to investigate this paid access to the Minister of Canadian Heritage?

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, all the facts are known and there is no need for an investigation. The names and the amounts of money are known. The money has been paid to the Liberal Party. I discussed this with the ethics counsellor yesterday morning.

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[Translation]

CRTC

Mrs. Christiane Gagnon (Quebec, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Canadian Heritage.

The minister has a responsibility to preserve the CRTC's independence, as well as that of Canada's regulatory process regarding broadcasting.

How can the Minister of Canadian Heritage associate himself with orders in council deemed illegal by the CRTC, which is responsible for implementing them, considering that, by virtue of his ministerial responsibilities, he must protect the CRTC's independence?

Hon. John Manley (Minister of Industry, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I will once again explain to the Bloc Québécois that we did nothing to compromise the CRTC's independence, since we

followed a process which is provided for in the broadcasting legislation.

• (1440)

The situation is very clear. There is a parliamentary process. We could debate the issue in this House. We have no intention of restricting the CRTC's independence. If Bloc members have a different view on the directive, they can share it. We are prepared to listen.

Mrs. Christiane Gagnon (Quebec, BQ): Mr. Speaker, I hope that the committee will be as receptive to our amendments as the minister is in this House. My supplementary is also for the Minister of Canadian Heritage. How can the minister willingly ignore the criticisms made by the CRTC chairman, who has to call on public opinion to preserve the independence of his organization? Is this not a serious neglect of duty?

[English]

Hon. John Manley (Minister of Industry, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it is very important the opposition understand what we are trying to do.

The complaint would have validity if there was an attempt to interfere with the CRTC's process, if there was an attempt in some fashion to determine who would receive a licence or who would not.

Instead we are dealing with situation in which the government is endeavouring to establish policy. That policy includes an obligation on the part of those who wish to provide direct to home satellite services of applying to the CRTC to obtain a licence to do so. Nobody would be able to carry on that business without a licence granted by the independent tribunal, the CRTC.

That does not in any way limit its independence. It is an appeal to it to use its independence in a way that is understood by the process to have a public application heard, debated, discussed and licences issued free of interference from the Government of Canada.

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MINISTER OF CANADIAN HERITAGE

Miss Deborah Grey (Beaver River, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, political contributions are not the problem here. Guaranteed contracts because of those contributions are the problem.

The government's approach to conflicts of interest is no different from the Mulroney gang. "If he had any information other than smear and innuendo let him summon the courage to make a direct accusation". Are these the words of the Prime Minister? No, they came from the lips of Brian Mulroney in defence of Roch LaSalle of all people.

Why has the Prime Minister adopted the Mulroney approach to political integrity and why will he not ask the heritage minister to resign?