

*Anti-Dumping Tribunal*

This has become usual practice nowadays. Recently the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Goyer) got rid of a problem by shifting blame on an official who in turn is counter-attacking the minister, and this gets into the headlines and prompts legal actions which have no sense and never end. Mr. Speaker, we are always on the alert. I suggest that the credibility of the Minister of Supply and Services as well as the credibility of this minister have been affected in this situation. We have therefore two victims; public opinion is still not fully satisfied because more light has not been shed on the truth and the solution is still to come.

The matter discussed today is serious. I would like the minister to go a step further, since he pretends to be an administrator. In view of the fact that for some time the chairman of the Anti-Dumping Tribunal and one of its members have had to examine, build up and administer files about dumping complaints submitted by some plaintiffs, Mr. Speaker, and since the minister is acknowledging today that in the case of the chairman of the Anti-Dumping Tribunal there has been actual conflicts of interest, I am wondering how we can trust the results of the inquiries made following the complaints raised when those conflict of interest situations arose. I would like to know who the plaintiffs were. What were the complaints raised when those conflict of interest situations arose in the case of Mr. Gauthier, since the minister himself has acknowledged the existence of such situation to the point where he had to accept the chairman's resignation. It is therefore evident that during that period complaints have been examined, files have been built up and decisions have been taken.

● (1520)

If that man was found a victim or a cause of that conflict of interest, that leads me to question the validity of either the judgements or the studies made when these complaints were lodged and when conflicts of interest were existing.

How many complaints were there? Who were the witnesses? On what issues? Was it on textile? Was it on steel, or on any other issue? Is the minister then prepared to allow the plaintiff—who might not be satisfied with the ruling since it has been admitted today that there was a conflict of interest, so much so that the resignation of that president was accepted—is the Minister of Finance, with his intellectual honesty and as an administrator of the government finances, prepared to contact the plaintiffs so they may again file their grievances, obtain common law justice and firmly believe in the validity of the review of these files and the decision-making process with respect to these files during the conflicts of interest.

Mr. Speaker, the question is fundamental. If today we feel quite satisfied with merely congratulating the Minister of Finance, with accepting those resignations and simply turning over a new leaf, without giving any guarantee that positive steps will be taken to avoid that type of conflicts of interest in the future, to protect those who were judged at the time when those conflicts of interest were pointed out, then, Mr. Speaker, we are just playing ostrich this afternoon.

I should like to close by saying that in Canada we have need of an efficient and, above all, humane public service. As a member of the Social Credit Party of Canada, Mr.

Speaker, no one need lecture us in this House on the services we render our constituents with regard to the administration in general. We need not necessarily shout out against the civil service but many incidents prove that it takes liberties with powers it does not have, that it takes decisions unilaterally that discriminate against defenceless citizens. Please allow me to express the very humble wish, this afternoon, that the public service in general will learn its lesson from what is happening to Mr. Gauthier and may happen to Mr. Bissonnette eventually, if the Minister of Finance decides to reach a decision rather than leave it to Mr. Bissonnette. The civil service must, in its decisions with the Canadian people, with the claimant in unemployment insurance matters, in matters of old age security or income tax, be as understanding, as broadminded, as humane, as welcoming in its judgment as those two officials were in dealing with their own business.

Mr. Speaker, come the day when the civil service considers the people it wants to serve with as much broadmindedness and humanity as it serves itself when its own protection and interests are involved, then, Mr. Speaker, we can trust our civil service. But, at this time, I doubt very much that we can.

[English]

**Mr. Stevens:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put some questions to the minister. Would he first of all reply to the point I raised in my reply to his statement in respect of item No. 6 of the guidelines tabled on December 18 which provided for public servants disclosing to their superiors, in a manner to be notified, of business, commercial or financial interest where such interest might conceivably be construed as being in an actual or potential conflict with their official duties? Would the minister indicate whether, in fact, the chairman, Mr. Bissonnette did at any time disclose to the minister the business dealings to which the minister is now referring in his two statements?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, after these guidelines were issued, and indeed were sent to autonomous tribunals such as the Anti-Dumping Tribunal, the question was raised—I am not sure of the source of the question—with the government and with the Privy Council office as to whether it was appropriate to apply these guidelines to members of a self-ruling body such as the Anti-Dumping Tribunal. While the question has been under consideration, for that reason my understanding is that at least most of the members of tribunals of this kind have not reported on the guidelines. I might indicate that copies of these, as was indicated in my statement, were sent to Mr. Bissonnette. I understand it has been the general policy not to press on with that inquiry until the matter is resolved.

**Mr. Stevens:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the guideline to which I have referred was really annexed to the statement of the Prime Minister on December 18, in which he stated very clearly that Crown Corporations and agencies will be urged to develop further standards and procedures within their own organizations in respect of this general question of conflict of interest, will the minister indicate whether in fact there are any guidelines established within the tribunal at the present time and, if not, why not?