

issue comprehensive legislation to restructure the way we do business in the harbours of this country.

Clearly, when we heard the previous speaker speak about allegations of conflict of interest, we are at an all-time low ebb in terms of public trust. It is not simply a Tory problem. It is a problem that faces all politicians. One of the reasons for that is because there is a public perception, buttressed by situations such as the Lush affair, that certain friends of the government have an undue opportunity to profit from their inside activities or insider information in, among other things, the workings of our ports and harbours.

You heard the previous speaker speak about real estate transactions in the city of Montreal that dealt with the previous Minister of Public Works and how that impacted on the ports in Montreal and in other places. I suggest that that problem is not unique to that particular port but, rather, is a potential problem in harbour commissions across this country.

If you read the letter that went to the Prime Minister on October 10, it is not a Liberal plot to raise the issue. It is an all-party unanimous resolution of the Council of the Corporation of the City of Hamilton unanimously adopting the following resolution:

That, consistent with the resolution adopted by Hamilton City Council at its meeting held 1990 March 13—

The details of which went to the Minister of Transport in March, 1990.

—the following resolution be forwarded to the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada:

(a) That City Council call upon the Federal Government to revisit the recommendations made by the City's "Task Force to Review the Mandate and Structure of the Hamilton Harbour Commissioners dated January 1989" with—

**Mr. Lewis:** Not a chance.

**Ms. Copps:** Not a chance? Not a chance, the Minister of Transport said. He has not even had the courtesy, via the Prime Minister, to reply to a unanimous resolution of the Corporation of the City of Hamilton. Yet, we hear the minister from his seat saying "not a chance".

**Mr. Lewis:** I already reviewed that last year. You should catch up.

### *Government Orders*

**Ms. Copps:** I have been in touch with the mayor's office as late as five o'clock this afternoon. The Prime Minister has not responded to their letter.

Clearly, the resolution's call for the review of the mandate and structure of the Hamilton Harbour Commission dated January, 1989:

That the Federal Government undertake to immediately fill the vacancy on the Hamilton Harbour Commission—

And, I might add with a Hamiltonian, or somebody who represents the interests of Hamilton. He will remember that when his colleague, the former Associate Minister of Transport, was pushing so hard for the nomination of Peter Lush that she went against all political advice from all sources in the city of Hamilton. The situation has created a bad taste in the mouths of a lot of Hamiltonians when our interests are not being represented on a commission that is supposed to speak, in part, for the people of Hamilton.

Furthermore, they ask that a consultation occur with the city of Hamilton before the new position is filled on that particular commission. Third, and most important:

That an open public inquiry be undertaken to ensure that any sale of land with specific reference to the 1987 sale by J.I. Case Canada to the Hamilton Harbour Commission in which Mr. P. Lush declared a conflict of interest complied in all respects with the Hamilton Harbour Commissioners Act—which reads in part:

"The Corporation shall not have any transaction of any pecuniary nature, either in buying or selling, with any member thereof, directly or indirectly."

and further, that Hamilton City Council request an immediate meeting with the Prime Minister of Canada to discuss and review harbour issues and concerns, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all local MPs, and that all local MP's including Shirley Martin, Geoff Scott and Bill Kempling—

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Order! I noted that the Hon. Member for Hamilton East had promised to keep her remarks relevant and I urge her to return to the issue under discussion, namely the Montreal and Quebec harbours.

**Ms. Copps:** Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that while we are dealing with a particular harbour, nothing prevents the government from taking action on other harbours at the same time. If the government had had the courage to follow the recommendations as unanimously tabled by all political parties on the Hamilton City Council, they would have introduced an omnibus bill to correct the