

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. member should talk to the hon. member for Saint-Denis about his sister who is a citizenship court judge. Or perhaps she should talk to Senator Keith Davey whose wife is on the Immigration Appeal Board. Or perhaps she should talk to Senator Leo Kolber whose wife is part of the CBC board.

Perhaps she should look around a little bit before she starts casting stones. People who live in glass houses should not cast stones and it is beneath contempt to slander these people in this House the way she has done.

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, the question is not whether this government has a right to appoint people to positions. The question is on the ethics of this government.

• (1445)

I want to ask the following question of the Acting Prime Minister. We know that on September 21 Michael McSweeney got a \$95,000 a year job from this government. Rinaldo, the hairdresser of the Prime Minister's wife, sits on the Federal Business Development Bank. Former speech writer Keith Morgan got a 10-year appointment to the Parole Board, and the husband of the member for Louis-Hébert who interestingly enough is named Maurice Duplessis got a patronage job.

Has the Canadian public not been subjected to enough? Why does this government for once not say that it is going to respect the edicts that it imposed on itself in 1984?

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, it is a horrible thing that a small business proprietor should be appointed to the board of the Federal Business Development Bank. That is a horrible thing.

It is a horrible thing that a former alderman of the city of Ottawa, elected by his fellow citizens to represent them in city council, should be considered too tainted as to be capable of taking on federal responsibilities.

It is a horrible thing that people got involved in political life or happen to be married to members of

Parliament. If he is outraged about Maurice Duplessis, let us hear his outrage about the sister of the member for Saint-Denis. Let him be consistent rather than just slinging mud.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, in 1984, the same Prime Minister said that political appointments would be beyond reproach.

[*English*]

The Prime Minister said in 1984 to another Prime Minister: "The least you could do is apologize for having made these horrible appointments".

I want to ask the Acting Prime Minister on behalf of the cabinet that made these appointments: Will he stand on behalf of his cabinet and apologize for these horrible appointments?

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, if there are apologies due it is from the hon. member for injuring the common sense and decency that ought to prevail here. He is the prolific mud-raker who digs around and has no problem slandering people who are here.

Each and every one of the appointments this government has made has been made on the basis of our conviction that they will do a good job in fulfilling the obligations we have asked them to take on. If the hon. member does not like that, that is too bad.

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**TAXATION**

**Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Meritt):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

This morning the Federation of Canadian Municipalities met with the Minister of Public Works over the freeze on grants in lieu of taxes announced by the Minister of Finance last year. By a single stroke on December 2 this government destroyed over 40 years of consultation with Canadian municipalities in this unilateral tax grab.