

## PRESENTATION OF BUDGET

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount):** Mr. Speaker, could the Prime Minister assure us today that when the Budget is delivered it will be delivered here in the House of Commons, and that it will be delivered by this Minister of Finance?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, it will be delivered here in the House of Commons by this Minister of Finance, and it will be one hell of an improvement over previous Budgets delivered here.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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## GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

## AWARDING OF CONTRACTS—APPLICATION OF NEW GUIDELINES

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Right Hon. Prime Minister about the Lawson Murray-Wilson affair. It has to do with the Prime Minister's statement that the new guidelines, which he promises to let us have a look at soon, appear to prohibit the apparent or real conflict of interest in which the Minister of Finance found himself with respect to that contract.

Recalling both Conservative and NDP unhappiness with the kind of narrow, legalistic arguments we used to get from former Prime Minister Trudeau about something being right only because it was legal, why did the Prime Minister not, in anticipation of the new guidelines, instruct his Government to behave in that way because that is the way Members of the Government ought to have behaved in any case, and not just because there were no guidelines to say they should behave that way?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure I get the full question except that I agree with the implication of my hon. friend that guidelines are worthless unless they are accepted both in spirit and in letter, and with enthusiasm, and when I indicated these guidelines, I indicated at the time of the appointment of Ministers that there would be enhanced and more rigorous guidelines at the earliest possible moment. I demanded of them what my hon. colleague would want, the highest possible standards of deportment. I believe that has been the case. You may quarrel from time to time with the procedures involved in awarding contracts. There will be procedures for them as well, and enhanced ones. Surely there cannot be the slightest doubt as to the integrity and the honesty of the Minister of Finance. That is absolutely beyond reproach.

## INTRODUCTION OF NEW GUIDELINES

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, I never questioned the integrity and the honesty of the Minister

*Oral Questions*

of Finance. I ask the Prime Minister whether the new guidelines prevent this kind of situation from happening, and if they do prevent this kind of situation, why did the Prime Minister not ask his Minister and his Government to act that way before the guidelines came into effect because they knew what was the right thing to do?

If the guidelines do not prevent that kind of situation from happening, then obviously they are inadequate, but we will not know until we see them. When can we see them? And when will the Prime Minister say, as I think he ought to, that the Government ought to have acted in a way to leave out possible conflict of interest even before the guidelines came in, given the inadequacy of the old ones and the possible inadequacy of the new ones?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I share the apprehension, and I recognize the legitimacy of my hon. friend's point. As some of my colleagues here from the private sector are aware, when I was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Iron Ore Company of Canada I imposed on the management of that company the most rigorous and demanding conflict of interest standards I believe that existed anywhere in Canada. Those are the kinds of standards we must have. I can assure you that the guidelines that will be filed will be the most rigorous ever demanded of federal politicians at any time.

**Mr. Blaikie:** Prevent it from happening again.

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## ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

## LEVEL OF TOLLS

**Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. At a time when the marine industry is in the doldrums, when shippers and shipbuilding are on the decline, and passage-way on the St. Lawrence Seaway is decreasing rapidly, does the Minister consider this is an appropriate time to increase the Seaway tolls or the lockage fees on that great waterway?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, in response to the Hon. Member's question, a few months ago we announced the Government's intention to continue the tolls at the current level. There is at the present time no consideration being given to any increase in those tolls. I think the Hon. Member would know that any increase in tolls would be subject to consultation and collaboration with the American authorities as well.