

Lobbyists Registration Act

friends were and who his friends are. He recognizes that he cannot bite the hand that feeds his Government with juicy contributions that come in very handy in an election year.

Who is a lobbyist? We have defined a lobbyist for the purposes of this debate as anyone who, for pay, approaches a legislator or anyone within the bureaucracy with the intent to influence the drafting or changing of legislation, the changing of rules or regulations to the obtaining contracts or appointments to boards or commissions.

Before I came here in 1972, I and many Canadians were aware that there were very powerful interests outside Parliament which seemed to have their own way with the Government in dealing with contracts and appointments. In fact, I have a comment which sums up the way it was and the way it will continue to be in spirit of Bill C-82.

It is from an article that I clipped from *The Gazette* in Montreal on December 3, 1986. The headline reads "Lobbying Threatens Parties: Masse". It goes on to say:

Energy Minister Marcel Masse said yesterday the growing popularity of lobbying is undermining Canada's political party system.

He went on to say, as reported in the article:

"It has become infinitely more easy to attract the attention of one's fellow citizens, the communications media and even the Government by belonging to a pressure group than through advancing one's ideas inside a political party," Masse said.

He went on to say that the danger inherent in lobbying is that it gives disproportionate weight to the opinions of the rich and the powerful. In fact, if people want to bring about change in our kind of democratic system, they should become involved in a political Party and work to make changes.

● (1600)

There is a further refinement that is even more invidious than the ones the Minister described. There are those who latch on, as a scavenger fish latches on to a shark, to the Government. They become friends of the Government and they work for the election of a Prime Minister or a Government because they know that when that person becomes Prime Minister or when that Party forms the Government, they can then extricate themselves from this close relationship and join or start a lobbying company.

In fact, because of the friendships these people have created within the political Party that now forms the Government, the fruits of their labours can finally ripen and fall into their hands.

Mr. Andre: John, that's a microphone in front of you. You don't have to shout.

Mr. Rodriguez: I see that the Minister responsible for this flimflammy, Bill C-82, has now been awakened. He was deeply plunged into Canada Post's annual report. Now I see that he has removed himself. He cannot stand the heat; he is leaving the Chamber.

Mr. Andre: You're hurting my ears.

Mr. Rodriguez: I am glad that someone can hurt some part of you.

What I have described is not idle speculation. In fact, that is a description of one Frank Moores who was the former Premier of Newfoundland. He was one of the Prime Minister's staunchest supporters for the Leadership of the Conservative Party. In fact, he worked diligently day and night, without pay, without an iota of compensation, doing it all out of the goodness of his heart, working hard for Brian, putting Brian in the Prime Minister's seat. However, everything comes to those who wait. In the fullness of time, as the world unfolded, Brian ascended to the Prime Minister's seat, and of course he rewarded them that brung him to the dance. In his famous words, "You always dance with them who brung you".

What did Frank Moores do? He is not stupid. You don't become a premier of a province if you don't have a little bit of stuff up here. He formed GCI, Government Consultants International. Who did he bring in? He brought in all the flops and flicks and flacks. He brought in Gerry Doucet who was a Cabinet Minister in the Nova Scotia Government, a good friend of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney). He brought in Gary Ouellet, a magician. He has a tuxedo with 12 pockets. I saw this guy at lunch one time, he made a quarter disappear. I saw it. The quarter was in his hand, he did that and the quarter disappeared. He has written 12 books on magic. He makes things disappear and I suspect he can also make them reappear.

Here was Government Consultants International, a mere new kid on the block in 1984. In that short period of time between 1984 and now, GCI has become the most powerful private lobby group in the country. In fact, its clients include Nabisco Brands Canada, Mercedes-Benz, Saint John Shipbuilding Ltd., the Iron Ore Company of Canada—if ever there was a connection—and American Express Canada. As a matter of fact, American Express Canada was with Public Affairs International, and when Frankie baby arrived on the scene with GCI, he approached American Express Canada and it switched. There was a \$175,000 contingency fee just on that account alone. How about Microtel, Huang and Danczkay? These groups got contracts for expanding the airport in Toronto.

Business has been booming at GCI. It has very powerful customers. Guess what? GCI does not charge a fee. It has a contingency fee. It says: "If I get you the contract, I get a percentage".

As a matter of fact, this whole thing blew up, and I think that is the reason for this flimflam, powder-puff Bill. In fact, Frank Moores literally and frankly screwed up. He took \$2,000 from a fisherman on the Atlantic to get an interview with the Fisheries Minister so that he could make a pitch to get a fishing licence. The fellow got the fishing licence.