

7. The Minister has acted according to one of the mandates of the Department which is to promote healthy lifestyles for Canadians and to enhance the program objectives of the "Generation of Non-Smokers".

[Translation]

Mr. Fisher: I ask, Madam Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Madam Speaker: The questions enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 62—NON-CONFIDENCE MOTION—CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Nielsen:

That the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections be authorized to consider and make recommendations upon the subject-matter of Ministers and Conflict of Interest; and Public Servants and Conflict of Interest.

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, I now rise to speak to the motion which is before the House and to remind Hon. Members—

[English]

Miss MacDonald: I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands rises on a point of order?

Miss MacDonald: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I do not mean to interrupt or delay the Minister, but when we broke at one o'clock p.m., I was in the middle of answering questions of the—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: My understanding was that there was no one rising to ask further questions at that point.

Miss MacDonald: I was in the middle of—

Mr. Hnatyshyn: She was in the middle of answering but she was cut off.

Miss MacDonald: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, I was in the middle of answering a question from the Hon. Member for Gatineau (Mr. Cousineau), who had asked me whether or not I had used the figure of 2.5 million people on Unemployment Insurance and whether that was correct. I undertook to check the blues and, in fact, found that I had

Supply

used the figure in error. I would like to point out that I had intended to use the figure of 1.5 million.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the Hon. Member for Saskatoon West rise on a point of order?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I just wanted to find out what the ruling is with respect to questions. If we are finished with statements—

Mr. Ouellet: We are finished.

● (1530)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No one rose further at that point and the incumbent of the Chair, Madam Speaker, recognized the next speaker on the other side of the House to the one who had just spoken. Accordingly, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) has the floor.

[Translation]

Mr. Ouellet: Mr. Speaker, I think it was clear that the ten minutes allowed for questions had elapsed and that it was time to proceed with the debate and recognize the next speaker.

I am pleased with this opportunity to remind the House that it is the second time in four weeks that the Opposition is spending a full day of Parliament's time on the subject of conflict of interest. I thought the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) and the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) would have used this second day of debate to bring forward new elements and to present evidence in support of the as yet unwarranted allegations and accusations they made repeatedly in their speeches and comments, both today and a few weeks ago, when a full day was spent on the same subject. I think it is most unfortunate that Members on the other side of the House, and especially Progressive Conservative Members, should be raising a storm about the so-called Coalgate scandal.

Mr. Speaker, as far as I am concerned, using this expression the Progressive Conservative have tried to instil an element of mistrust in public opinion, and this attempt to discredit not only politicians but former politicians is truly reprehensible, because in fact, there is not a shred of evidence that Mr. Gillespie was given preferential treatment in this matter. Nothing that was said during the first debate or this morning during the second debate could lead anyone to believe or could prove that the former Minister, Mr. Gillespie or the present Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) have been involved in a dishonourable operation. I therefore say quite honestly that on the part of the Progressive Conservative Members, this constitutes a smear operation that is unfortunate, unwarranted and unjustifiable in the circumstances.

When the Member for Kingston and the Islands made her holier than thou statement to the effect that the public must be able to trust men and women in public life and when she