

Privilege—Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra)

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): And if the right hon. gentleman would like, I would suggest that we bring the whole issue before the Committee on Privileges and Elections to find out what Sam Wakim did to peddle his wares to a number of law firms in Toronto to see whether he could get that business and then invite two members of the law firm of Gowling Henderson to leave that law firm and join him with the new business.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: There is no question of privilege involved.

Some Hon. Members: Up, up, up!

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Right Hon. Member knows full well that I must find that he has not raised a question of privilege.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): To my recollection, I may be wrong—and if I am, I will apologize to my hon. friend—I think he raised the name of Mr. Wakim yesterday. I think the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) raised it yesterday, which is the first time it was placed on the floor of the House of Commons.

Mr. Wakim is a former Member of this House. He is a former distinguished chief counsel to the Ontario Securities Commission. He is a very honourable man. I am honoured to have him as my friend. There was no suggestion at any time that any lawyer, be it the Hon. Member from Shawinigan or be it the Hon. Member for Vancouver Quadra when he was practising law, or myself when I was practising law, that when we were all out looking for business and got business, there was anything wrong with looking for clients.

Mr. Lapierre: That's not what he said.

Mr. Mulroney: It is widely known that lawyers do that. I have never at any time impugned the integrity of my right hon. friend.

Ms. Copps: Ten minutes ago.

Mr. Mulroney: But I think my hon. friend would think less of me if I sat in my place and allowed anyone directly or indirectly to slander someone who is not here in the House to defend himself. And that is exactly what I am going to do.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: I want to say that the Hon. Member for Shawinigan is associated with a distinguished Toronto law firm—

Ms. Copps: Oh, sit down. That's not a point of order.

Mr. Mulroney: The Hon. Member from Shawinigan represents clients here and in Toronto, New York and Montreal. They are very important clients. He goes out and seeks them and represents them and I wish him well because that is an

honourable calling. I do not criticize him for it, and I won't stand for criticism of anyone else in that situation.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chrétien: And you protest too much.

Mr. Blaikie: There are too many lawyers in here anyway.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps I am forced to come to the defence of lawyers. That would pain me.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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POINT OR ORDER

STATEMENT BY LEADER OF OPPOSITION

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I indicated to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) my intention to raise this point of order at the beginning of Proceedings today once I had the opportunity of seeing *Hansard* from yesterday which came late today as Your Honour will know.

I rise on the basis of exchanges yesterday between the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition. It is to be found at page 6391 of *Hansard*. I am sure you will be aware, Mr. Speaker, of Citation 321(3) of Beauchesne's Fifth Edition which states in part:

The Speaker has traditionally protected from attack a group of individuals commonly referred to as "those of high official station". The extent of this group has never been defined. Over the years it has covered senior public servants—

The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition clearly made an attack on the integrity on the Governor of the Bank of Canada. He said in the House yesterday, and I quote:

The question really relates to the fact that the House was misled . . . being misled by the . . . Governor of the Bank of Canada.

The point of order which I wish to raise is a very serious one. An unsubstantiated accusation has been made by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition, who is an officer of the House, Sir, which constitutes an attack on a senior public servant who, in discharging his responsibilities, gave advice to the Government.

When the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition, who is an experienced Parliamentarian, engages in a partisan attack on a leading public administrator, our system is undermined. The Prime Minister can defend himself. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) can defend himself. The Governor of the Bank of Canada cannot.

Mr. Ouellet: Come on.