

improper influence, privileged access or preferential treatment respecting former public officials.

The *Toronto Globe and Mail* reported that James Coutts, who held the important office of Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, regularly calls Cabinet Ministers, and received help from the Minister of Employment and Immigration in a specific immigration case. Surely the Prime Minister has seen this report and recognizes that it is a clear violation of several provisions of the conflict of interest guidelines. What does the Prime Minister intend to do? He knows that there is no court of public opinion to which he can refer Mr. Coutts and his Minister.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I would think that it is the duty of the Minister of Employment and Immigration to assist on any immigration case, no matter who refers the case to him. I would think that a referral from a former Minister or former adviser is just as valid as a referral from a member of the Opposition.

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NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

TESTING OF CRUISE MISSILE—STATEMENT BY FORMER MINISTER IN APRIL, 1982

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Last month, when the Minister was absent, there was considerable debate in the House on whether he had misled the House and committee concerning an agreement to test the Cruise missile. He had said on April 29, 1982, that the request "has been accepted by the Canadian Cabinet." The current Secretary of State for External Affairs denied this on February 14, this year. As reported at page 22852 of *Hansard* on February 15, the Prime Minister said, in answer to a question from the Member for New Westminster-Coquitlam:

If she believes MacGuigan, we will wait until he enters the House and the Hon. Member can ask him her question.

The Hon. Minister is now in the House. Did he or did he not mislead the House on this matter on April 29, 1982?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Madam Speaker, due to the restrictions about answering questions related to my former portfolio, I think I should answer that question in this fashion: in my previous portfolio and in this one, I have always openly and forthrightly stated the policies of the Government exactly as I understood them. On one or two occasions when I found that I made an erroneous statement about government action or policy, as in one exchange with the Leader of the Opposition, I came into the House at the first opportunity to correct that.

Mr. Beatty: Translation please.

Oral Questions

STATEMENTS ON CABINET DECISION

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, I would like to quote the Prime Minister when he was speaking on this matter. He said, as reported at page 22890 of *Hansard*:

In that sense whether the former Secretary of State for External Affairs used exactly the right words or not, I am not prepared to say. I am anxious to hear his own explanation.

Having heard it, we are just as much in the dark as ever. Therefore my supplementary question is to the Prime Minister. On February 15 he said, as reported at page 22851 of *Hansard*:

There has been no agreement to test the Cruise.

• (1150)

The Minister of Justice said on April 29, 1982, and I quote:

—President Carter requested . . . that we allow . . . the Cruise missile system, to be tested in Canada. It is the Carter request, which . . . has been accepted by the Canadian cabinet.

I wonder if the Prime Minister would tell us which of these contradictory statements we should believe?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, things developed as I had said in the House. When the Minister returned I asked him about the quotes which had been put to me by a Member of one of the Opposition Parties. He referred me to the pages in *Hansard* where this matter was discussed by him. The Hon. Member will recall I had to deal with quotations just given verbally, in the same way as one has been given just now by the Hon. Member opposite. Therefore I was answering on the basis of these selective quotes, but having read the whole statement I am satisfied that the Minister was stating government policy and that government policy had been to consider testing the Cruise but that the actual decisions as they were eventually recorded in cabinet were to authorize the negotiation of an umbrella agreement under which the Cruise could or could not be tested, but that would be the subject of a different decision at a different time. I am satisfied, if the Hon. Member reads the entire statement of the Minister, that that is what he was saying.

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TRADE

EXPORT RESTRICTIONS ON BRANCH PLANTS—REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of International Trade. Last week I asked questions in the House about export restrictions on foreign-owned branch plants in Canada, and the Minister said he would be very happy to investigate some specific examples. Since then we have placed some classified ads and done some research, and this morning I have with me a licence agreement between a head office in the United States and a Canadian plant that was signed in the middle of 1982. In