

comment with respect to the fact situation surrounding any transaction which may be under investigation. To do so may have implications for free and unfettered examination by the RCMP.

It is not from the point of view that the Deputy Prime Minister, or indeed any member of the Government, refuses to answer specific questions. It is just that I think the Hon. Member himself would want to make sure the police have an unfettered opportunity to come to their own conclusions, uncomplicated by versions of facts given on the floor of the House during the course of debate. They should be allowed to come to their own conclusions without being influenced by anything said on the floor of the House.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I am not rising to investigate the Hon. Member for Joliette. I am rising in my responsibility as a member of the Official Opposition to hold the Government to account for the conflict of interest guidelines it introduced.

The Minister will recall that the Prime Minister told us, when the Hon. Member for York—Peel left in a totally different situation, how limited the investigation into that matter was by the Prime Minister. He spoke only to the Minister and officials of the Deputy Registrar General who had spoken only to the Minister themselves. I want to ask if anything more was done in this case with the allegations that were around when the Hon. Member left the Cabinet. Did the Government, the Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister do anything at all to assure the integrity of the Government?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, number one, I think any sensible and reasonable Canadian would expect that before any decisions are made on conflict of interest or any other matter, we would want a clear exposition of the facts. That is why the RCMP, a truly independent law enforcement agency, should be given the opportunity to get all the facts and bring them to light. Following that investigation, conclusions can be drawn.

To stand up at this point in time and make answers with respect to the activities of a Member of Parliament or former cabinet Minister would not be helpful and would probably be inappropriate on the part of the Government.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

LABOUR

ISSUANCE OF WORK PERMITS TO EMPLOYEES OF PERUVIAN COMPANIES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

On November 30th, the Department of Employment and Immigration issued a dozen work permits to employees of Peruvian companies to fly domestic runs which are normally the responsibility of Air Canada. Since last Thursday, they have apparently made two flights a day between Vancouver and Hamilton.

A memo from his Department clearly indicates that temporary work permits may not be issued to foreigners if these permits are to be used to replace Canadian workers involved in a strike or lock-out situation.

Could the Minister explain why his Department has ignored this memo and allowed this Peruvian airline to fly domestic runs in Canada while Canadian workers are in a lock-out situation?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I suggest that, under the circumstances, Air Canada had to ensure transportation services especially to the Vancouver destination. And the policy of first offering to Canadian workers the jobs in question has been followed. In view of the fact that we are dealing with Canadian companies, I suggest that the conditions as far as immigration is concerned have been met, and that the work permits were issued according to our usual procedure.

● (1500)

[English]

WORK PERMITS GRANTED TO PERUVIAN PILOTS

Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, Chapter 17 of the Manpower Directive says:

—temporary work authorizations cannot be issued to people from outside of Canada to take the jobs of striking workers.

I wish the Minister would tell the House why they have granted temporary work permits to pilots from Peru when there are 1,200 pilots in Canada who have been laid off. We cannot get refugees in but can get temporary workers in to break strikes.

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think that my Hon. friend should check her figures. As is usually the case whenever NDP Members make assumptions, they must be verified.

I will repeat what I said earlier: The policy concerning work permits for foreign workers is quite clear. The jobs are first