

Oral Questions

[Translation]

DEINDEXATION OF FAMILY ALLOWANCES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the same Minister. The Minister's failure to reply to my hon. friend's question confirms that his Government has already decided that as of January 1—

Oh, come on, that is the question! Right!

Mr. Speaker: The question please, and right now!

Mr. Malépart: I will repeat what I said to wake up the Progressive Conservatives. My question, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Now!

Mr. Malépart: My question: The Minister confirmed that your Government decided to increase by 31 cents—

Mr. La Salle: Is it a question, or isn't it?

Mr. Malépart: My question, Mr. Speaker—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for Nickel Belt.

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GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS

SYSTEM OF MAKING APPOINTMENTS

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. A classified document dated January, 1985, has surfaced from the Prime Minister's Office. It outlines the PET system—Patronage for Every Tory. Can the Prime Minister confirm the existence of this document and tell us how different this system is from the Pierre Elliott Trudeau system of patronage?

Mr. McDermid: Better people.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): First of all, the Pierre Elliott Trudeau system of patronage was kept alive by a coalition with the NDP.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: He did not appoint any New Democrats.

Mr. Mulroney: It was sweethearts on parade. There they were.

The Liberal system was historic, overwhelming, and debilitating, as exemplified by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition, and massively repudiated in the last election campaign. This Government has done infinitely better.

REQUEST FOR REFORM

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, it is pretty damn obvious that there is no difference between Tory pork-barrelling and Liberal pork-barrelling.

Mr. Speaker: Language, please. Just a question, please.

Mr. Rodriguez: Can the Prime Minister give this House and the Canadian people the assurance that he will keep his campaign promise and reform the patronage system so that we do not have to wait until every living Tory has been appointed?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the Hon. Member that no amount of sweet-talk from him is going to get him an ambassadorship.

An Hon. Member: Unless we want to start a war.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Even if Ed asks us to give him one.

Mr. Mulroney: There is an opening in Fort Chimo I want to talk to him about.

It is widely known, Mr. Speaker, and generally accepted across the country, that this Government, through the efforts of the Hon. Member for St. John's East, in co-operation with other Members, has brought together—

Mr. Blaikie: Don't pretend that you accepted our recommendations because you didn't!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mulroney: The last thing this country needs is a socialist having a cardiac arrest in this House. That would be one of the most unpleasant sights of all.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Rodriguez: There goes my ambassadorship!

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ENERGY

SASKATCHEWAN HEAVY OIL UPGRADER PROJECT

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. She will know that Alberta and Saskatchewan are not happy with the federal Government's decision to review the support package for the Husky Bi-Provincial oil upgrader. The Minister said she would have a decision on this package by early December. When is the Government going to come forward with a decision and live up to the commitment by the former Liberal Government so this project can get under way?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the allegation that anyone is unhap-