

*LIP Grants*

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, as the first question on this matter was directed to me, may I tell the Leader of the Opposition that when Treasury Board was established in 1867, it was a committee of cabinet formed for the purpose of allowing regional ministers to be consulted about the business of the government. It was established in order to make sure that all the ministers from the various regions were consulted. So I see nothing wrong in our still following the advice of Sir John A. Macdonald.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a different point of order—

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** The Prime Minister rises on the previous point of order.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I see that all ministers present are volunteering to stand up one after another. I suggest that we turn to the other side and hear them say that no political considerations at all were involved when they approved LIP grants in their various constituencies.

**Mr. Cossitt:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. A few minutes ago the Minister of Finance either disowned, or did not disown, depending how you interpret what he said, the fact that he is the regional minister and responsible for LIP grants in eastern Ontario. I wish to draw to the attention of the House a document from the Minister of Manpower's office flatly stating that ten Liberal members of parliament—and he is one of them—must have their LIP grants which are mentioned therein, adopted. It is signed by the minister's executive assistant. Therefore the Minister of Finance did not need to be the regional minister. He had it all arranged ahead of time.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Please produce that document.

**Mr. Andras:** Mr. Speaker, a highly respected report which comes to the attention of this House from time to time, the Auditor General's report, draws attention to the approval of three LIP projects and the validity of those approvals is questioned. One of those involved recommendations from the former minister of the environment and another from my colleague who was formerly the minister responsible for multi-culturalism. The interesting point I want to make is that the third case called in question in this report involved the riding of the hon. member for Hastings. I heard the presentation of the hon. member for Hastings. He persuaded me that the case had merit and I approved the project.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I must reiterate that we are dealing with a matter which I considered from the beginning to be not a point of order, and nothing that has happened since I made that observation has in any way made regular our proceedings. I must insist that we put an end to what is going on. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre rises on another point of order.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order with respect to a different matter. I

[Mr. Speaker.]

realize, sir, that you frequently rule, and correctly so, that the quality of an answer given by a minister is not the subject of a point of order. But I suggest that a statement made today by the President of the Privy Council, no doubt inadvertently, has a bearing on all private members of this House. I do not think that his statement should be allowed to stand on today's record without the other side of the matter being put on it as well.

The President of the Privy Council said that no guidelines or restrictions apply to private members of the House of Commons so far as conflicts of interest are concerned. In the few minutes since the minister made that statement I have checked through the books I happen to have on my desk. I find that Standing Order 11 and Standing Order 76 impose limitations on all members of parliament. I find, also, that citation 66 and citation 108 in Beauchesne's fourth edition impose limitations in this area of conflict of interest. You will notice that I am not taking the time to read them; I am just drawing attention to them.

I have also discovered that there are guidelines or limitations which affect members of parliament in the British North America Act, the Senate and House of Commons Act, the House of Commons Act, the Financial Administration Act, the Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act, the Official Secrets Act, the Post Office Act, the Canada Elections Act, and even in the Income Tax Act. I submit that the statement that there are no guidelines and no restrictions on members ought to be qualified by the facts I have just presented to the House.

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, if I created the wrong impression I did not intend to do so. I said that there are no restrictions, with exceptions. Those were the words I used. The Prime Minister, who is sitting beside me, reminded me that I had said this. The exhaustive guidelines which we propose go much further and apply a much stricter rule to the conduct of private members than any they are now expected to follow.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### WAYS AND MEANS

#### CUSTOMS TARIFF

The House proceeded to the consideration of a ways and means motion respecting the customs tariff.

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance)** moved:

That a ways and means motion with respect to the customs tariff, laid upon the Table, Monday, November 18, 1974, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.