

Senate and House of Commons Act

Mr. Boudria: The Member for Drummond was not even consulted, as the Member for Saint-Léonard—Anjou says.

[Translation]

Besides, we had good reasons to believe that the majority of Cabinet members had not even been consulted. Some Ministers were contradicting themselves. A Minister, whose name I shall not mention, had stated it was his responsibility to decide that the prison was going to Port-Cartier, despite the fact that it was not his Department's role to decide where prisons should be built. I will not say who it was, but you probably know indeed that the media did report the statement had been made by the Minister involved. Hard to believe I admit, Mr. Speaker, but I am told the statement was made.

The Chief of Staff or an official in the Prime Minister's Office said that the decision had not been made by the Prime Minister, yet the Prime Minister was bragging that he was the one who did make the decision. The Solicitor General kept saying the prison was needed, but the Auditor General maintained that there was no use for it at all.

In answer to a question I directed to him in the House the new Minister of Public Works (Mr. McInnes) indicated there was no conflict of interest in the award of a certain contract in Port-Cartier; 30 seconds later his colleague—I am referring to the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret)—replied in answer to my supplementary that an inquiry had already been launched with respect to this alleged conflict of interest.

Mr. Speaker, such flagrant contradictions are just one more example of the broken promises made by the Progressive Conservative Party during the 1984 election campaign.

It stretches one's imagination to think that a Government may have broken so many promises in so little time. This Government was elected with the greatest majority ever given a political party in the history of this country, but in very short order it quite simply whittled down the confidence of the Canadian people. Would you believe it? In very little time indeed, Canadians no longer believed what this Government and this Prime Minister were saying. Some people have gone as far as wondering whether the Prime Minister is always telling the truth. Doubts have been raised. It is hard to believe that a Government would lose this confidence so quickly, but sure enough, that is exactly what is really happening.

The ultimate conclusion is that never again will Canadians have confidence in the Conservative Party.

[English]

Canadians can no longer trust these Tories. They made too many promises to Canadians and have deliberately broken most of them and failed to deliver promises they could have fulfilled.

Let me give a few examples. During the last election campaign the Prime Minister, then the Leader of the Opposition, raised an issue involving patronage. The issue of political patronage was raised by the Tories during the last election. They said how evil the previous Government was because it

appointed 19 people to certain Government positions. That was wrong, according to these Tories, and they wanted to correct that situation. They said that under a Tory regime these kinds of things would never be allowed to happen. I have a little list of Tory political appointments in a book called *The Black Paper on Tory Patronage*. In this book is a list of approximately 1,000 political appointments during the first seven or eight months the Conservatives were in power. That is one appointment every three hours, 24 hours a day, seven days a week for seven months. That is not bad for an outfit which said it was not going to partake of patronage.

• (1150)

I ask the Tories opposite to stand and defend some of those patronage appointments. I ask them to defend the appointment of Gail Christie who said her qualifications were that she could drive a car and that is why she should sit on the Board of Air Canada. I ask the Tories to try to defend the appointment of Marie Marchand of North Bay who said to the *North Bay Nugget* concerning her appointment to CN Rail: "I come from North Bay, a railroad town, and my grandfather was a well-known railroader in the Maritimes". Those were the qualifications she attributed to herself. Can you believe that, Mr. Speaker? And the Tories had the unmitigated gall to make the promises they did during the last election campaign.

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I wonder if the Hon. Member would accept a question on the remarks he has just made?

Mr. Boudria: At the appropriate time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria).

Mr. Boudria: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will accept questions at the appropriate time. As I was saying before I was interrupted, I would like to bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker, a few quotes made in the past. On May 24, 1983, the Leader of the Conservative Party said, concerning patronage: "There will be jobs for Liberals and NDPs, too, after I have been Prime Minister for 15 years and cannot find a living, breathing Tory in the country".

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McDermid: If they are all like you, we understand why.

Mr. Boudria: Those were his words. I know they are hard to swallow. I can see the Tories opposite wincing. They are embarrassed, and I do not blame them. I would be embarrassed, too, if I were a Tory, heaven forbid that would ever happen. A little later, on July 16—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for Kitchener (Mr. Reimer) on a point of order.

Mr. Reimer: Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise a point of order. I cannot see the relevance of the Hon. Member's