

Why is it that we have reached a new low in all parties with having good men and women run for their parties in the election? We seem to be having fewer problems than the others but I think it is a problem all parties are having.

Let me suggest that those opposite look on the public trust—and have shown this since 1984—much the way a vulture looks on a sick cow. Has there been a single government in our entire national history that has earned the opprobrium of Canadians more than this one opposite now.

Let me just pick up a few examples of the kinds of things that Canadians are concerned about. Here is article from *The Globe and Mail* on February 21, 1990: "\$670,000 for trip by MP to Costa Rica".

It states: "The government spent \$296,000 for the military aircraft and crew used to transport the entourage and equipment which included flying two armoured Oldsmobile limousines from Ottawa to Costa Rica, and \$136,000 more or less for travel expenses of officials accompanying Mr. Mulroney".

Here is one from *The Toronto Star* of December 6, 1989. It states: "External Affairs Minister Joe Clark spent \$165,438 for a pair of trips to Paris and London. Clark and three officials could not get a commercial flight to Paris in August because the minister had to attend a late session of the Progressive Conservative Party annual meeting. The Challenger dropped them off in time to attend a conference in Cambodia and return to Ottawa. On return to Ottawa, it was empty. The cost was \$85,000.

• (1630)

There are so many stories, Madam Speaker, it is hard to know where to stop. Here is one *en français*.

[Translation]

It is another article in French by Marcel Adam, published in *La Presse* on May 27, 1989, and I quote: "Since they came to power five years ago, the Tories have continued to display a deplorable lack of public morality and parliamentary ethics. They are morally so lax that they are acquiring a reputation as one of the most corrupt government parties to sully federal politics, at a time when we thought such practices were no longer tolerated".

Supply

[English]

Here is one dated February 2, 1990 from *The Ottawa Citizen* written by Don McGillivray, whom the government House leader does not seem to like. I will not name any names. We will just keep this general.

Is there no end to the parade of cabinet ministers, members of Parliament and appointed officials who use the position of public trust to advance their private interests?

Here is another one from *La Presse*.

[Translation]

It is dated November 8, 1990, under the heading: "Two out of three Canadians believe favouritism and corruption are on the increase in Ottawa", and I quote: "Nearly two-thirds of Canadians, 65 per cent, state that favouritism and political corruption are increasing in Ottawa, while only 6 per cent claim the tendency is less widespread than it was in the past."

[English]

Here is one from *The Gazette* of May 24, 1991. One could pick up the paper almost any week and find a similar story. The headline read:

Company founded by Mulroney aide got \$700,000 job.

Just two months after the \$700,000 'strategic management review' of the Canadian International Development Agency was given to Secor Inc. of Montreal, company founder Marcel Côté quit the Prime Minister's office and rejoined the firm.

There has been a steady stream of scandals, blatant patronage appointments and questionable ethical behaviour on behalf of cabinet ministers since 1984. Let me quote from the former leader of this party, John Turner, who spoke in Montreal in March 1987 about what he called a crisis of confidence in the political system itself:

By confusing personal, party and public interest, the Mulroney government has undermined the very foundation of the state. In today's system there is a clear distinction made between the state, the Prime Minister and the party with the majority. Despite the strength of their 1984 victory, the Conservatives do not have the right to use their position, which should be above partisan interests, for personal gains. The state exists for the common good and not for the personal interests of a few. We cannot remain passive in the light of this situation for I am certain that no one can run a country without the confidence of the people. This confidence must be earned.

He went on to talk about the people here being the trustees of the democratic institutions: "We must strengthen them, not undermine them". He talked about the need for a code of conduct to dictate honest behaviour and so on.