

Trust when he said that the Government's position on take-overs of financial institutions is "a political decision . . . swayed by the views of influential party backers and fund raisers rather than by sheer logic" and "common sense" since "several of the trust company owners fall into the category of influential Conservative Party backers and fund raisers."

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member knows better than to ask a question like that.

Mr. Riis: Perhaps I will ask another question then. Is there any truth to the recent report that Imasco and Genstar contributed \$55,830 to the Conservative Party in 1984?

Mr. Speaker: Order. That question is clearly out of order.

Some Hon. Members: Why?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte Marie.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

DECISION TO CUT BENEFITS—EARLY RETIREES

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

Yesterday in Montreal, a group of early retirees got together to challenge your decision to cut unemployment insurance benefits. In addition, Bell Canada employees confirmed that the Personnel Director at Bell Canada got in touch with the Minister's Office, where he was told they could take early retirement without being penalized.

Considering these facts, could the Minister inform the House . . .

● (1500)

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It is now three o'clock. Order, please, order, please. I tried to get in one more question and I am afraid the preamble simply ran us into three o'clock. Order, please. Order, please; order, please; order, please.

Point of Order—Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106(8), I have the honour of tabling, in both official languages, the Government's response to Petitions Nos. 331-16, 331-17, 331-18 and 331-19.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I am in receipt of an application on a question of privilege arising out of Question Period from the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malepart).

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[Translation]

PRIVILEGE

THE RIGHT TO ASK A QUESTION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, regarding what just happened, perhaps I may remind you, and you can check it in the blues, that I had started on my question. You could have let me proceed with my question . . .

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would be perfectly happy to check the blues, but in fact the Member will find that I rose before he began his question. I was listening carefully to the beginning of the question. I say to the Member—

[Translation]

I said to the Member that I tried to allow one more question, but his preamble was too long to let him proceed.

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[English]

POINT OF ORDER

STATEMENT BY GOVERNMENT HOUSE LEADER

Mr. Speaker: On a point of order, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner).

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): When you are reflecting on this matter over the evening, Mr. Speaker, perhaps you might recall the farce conducted by the House Leader which consumed a good many minutes of Question Period.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The right hon. gentleman knows full well that neither the contents of the questions nor