

Mr. Boudria: That is under the authority for which we reviewed.

The member for Manicouagan asked questions about the tone of the debate today and what else we would do. I see that as a perfect opportunity to continue giving some of the recommendations of my party to improve public sector ethics and morals. I want to share these thoughts.

The rational system of awarding government contracts ought to be further implemented in all ministries in order to allow small business a greater opportunity to receive government contracts.

I believe the government should establish a central registry of awarded contracts subject to security requirements. The detail of any contract awarded by the government should be open to public scrutiny.

My policy and that of my colleagues is we want to ensure that federal government contracts are awarded on an equal basis and that members of Parliament be excluded from the involvement of the awarding of contracts, that political exempt staff not be stationed in regional offices of departments as they were at one period with the Department of Public Works.

There should be established within the House of Commons non-partisan nomination and confirmation procedures for Order in Council appointments such as the officers of the House, and that the committee reviewing those should have a veto power.

That the members of the House of Commons should be able to scrutinize deputy ministers and other individuals such as heads of Crown corporations and regulatory agencies. The House ought to be able to give recommendations in regard to those appointments which it cannot do right now.

A nomination procedure ought to be developed for the appointments of Citizenship Court judges. That does not exist right now.

There should be no registration fees imposed on tier 1 or tier 2 lobbyists. I believe that professional lobbyists should be required to disclose in a public register major expenses and fees with a description of the lobbying activity.

The Lobbyists Registration Act should be amended to ban contingency fees.

Supply

Professional lobbyists should be obliged to declare all of their lobbying efforts whether a fee was charged or not. It should be compulsory that lobbyists disclose fees charged to a client along with the amount and the form of any payment made.

I could continue and elaborate further if you wish for me to do so, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North): Madam Speaker, as usual we learn a lot from my colleague from Glengarry—Prescott—Russell.

I would just like to say that if a government violates ethics, it makes Canadians lose faith in our political system. That will be the end of our nation.

My colleague was talking about the need for a central registry for the awarding of contracts. Would the member briefly comment on the 23 contracts awarded by the department of health as audited by the Auditor General that 22 of those 23 contracts were illegal and cost Canadians millions of dollars?

Mr. Boudria: Madam Speaker, that is actually a very good case in point of some of the things I have been advocating.

The Auditor General indicated in his annual report and since then we have seen case after case of government contracts awarded with no regard to the tendering procedure, not even any due regard for a proper invitational procedure where such is the procedure to be used right now.

In some of those cases that procedure should not be in existence anyway. The procedures have been breached. In the cases at the department of health it was flagged right in the Auditor General's report.

Surely members across the way cannot accuse me of innuendo, of creating those circumstances. The Auditor General of Canada is the person who has said so. These are not figments of my imagination nor the imagination of the member across the way.

This is wrong, dead wrong. The government has to reform those practices. It must do so even if it is at the 11th hour of the dying days of this administration.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, the contracts in question were, according to the Auditor General, not done by the bureaucratic procedure set down. Did the Auditor General suggest that in