

appointees on federal boards, commissions, and Crown corporations with our people". That was her Minister speaking, the Minister who is now in charge of the Department that is the most susceptible to patronage. Does that square with the notion that all is well here and we should not ask questions because the Minister of Finance would not have a smoke behind the bicycle shed? Who are you trying to kid?

Mrs. McDougall: I hope the Hon. Member is not suggesting that anyone who voted for the Conservative Party is not a person of integrity and of service to the community. Every single appointment that we have made is of people with a history of community service, competence, and integrity. We have appointed women and people from a variety of cultural groups. What does the Hon. Member want? Most of the people in the country voted for us.

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, in the Hon. Member's opening remarks she confirmed what I had said. None of the names she mentioned was that of a Party official. I am not complaining about the Party officials that the Conservatives have appointed to various posts. I am just remarking.

As the Hon. Minister and all of the rest of us know, the Minister of Finance spoke with his brother-in-law, Mr. Lawson, about this matter. As I understand it, he gave approval. I would like to remind the Minister that while my colleagues and I have repeatedly said how capable, honest and good a man the Minister of Finance is, we have yet to use the word "judgment", because we question his judgment in that matter. That may say something for the judgment of the brother-in-law, who at least checked it out, but it does not say much for the judgment of the Minister of Finance, or, for that matter, of the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Andre).

Will the Minister tell us whether, in her personal view, she thinks it is appropriate for the brother-in-law of a Cabinet Minister to receive an untendered contract? That is all we want to know.

● (1530)

Mrs. McDougall: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the judgment of the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Andre) is what determines who gets contracts. I have absolutely no problem with supporting my colleague, the Minister of Supply and Services, in the awarding of this contract.

Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, I take it from her answer that the Minister agrees it is acceptable for brother-in-laws to do untendered business with the Government. What is the Minister's opinion with respect to brothers and sisters? Could they accept appointments or do untendered business for the Government? Is the answer yes or no?

Mrs. McDougall: Mr. Speaker, I understand that there is a Liberal Member who has a brother-in-law in the Department of my hon. colleague, the Minister of the Environment (Mrs. Blais-Grenier).

How far does the Hon. Member want to go? Is he talking about second cousins, fourth cousins or uncles and aunts? Is he

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suggesting that a competent person who is the sister or brother of the government Member should be excluded from any participation in the public policy process? If that is the case, he would eliminate many people. I and many of my colleagues have a large extended family.

Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, I am not talking about Members but about Cabinet Ministers and their brothers and sisters. We will restrict it to the question of brothers and sisters of Cabinet Ministers doing business with the Government of Canada. Does the Minister agree that they should be allowed to do so? Is the answer yes or no?

Mrs. McDougall: Mr. Speaker, that is a hypothetical question. Everyone has brothers and sisters. Surely there is nothing wrong with that.

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, would the Hon. Minister not agree that many of the problems of the NDP in Saskatchewan were solved by their Liberal brethren who had a marvelous record for making them bureaucrats in the federal service.

There appears to be a wonderful NDP reputation for social engineering. I wonder about the NDP commitment to the family when this resolution would have the effect of outlawing in-laws.

Mrs. McDougall: Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak for the NDP commitment to the family.

Other allegations have been made in relation to this, one by the Hon. Member for Saint-Henri-Westmount (Mr. Johnston). He indicated that when he was a Minister there were secret government documents all over the office and anyone walking through the office could look at them. I do not think that is at all an appropriate way for a Cabinet Minister to conduct his business.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for LaSalle (Mr. Lanthier), for questions or comments.

Mr. Lanthier: Yes, I am rising as the Member for LaSalle. I would like to ask the Minister what I am supposed to do. I am the fourteenth of a family of fifteen. I have 39 nephews and nieces and 27 grand-nephews and grand-nieces.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): There are 25 millions Canadians!

Mr. Lanthier: Seriously, there are quite a few Quebecers who are struck with the same situation. Am I supposed to commit suicide or go home?

[English]

Mrs. McDougall: Mr. Speaker, there are many of us on this side of the House as well as on the other side who have extended families. I know that this includes my hon. colleague.

I think that it is important that we get back to the fact that this Party has committed itself to acting with integrity and