

Oral Questions

under the television lights in Canada—the Hon. Member talks about openness—where we conducted ourselves on the aboriginal issue in a manner which I think brings honour to this House. We tried to secure a deal with dignity for the native peoples of Canada. That's the way we feel about our commitment to helping the native peoples, and the Leader of the New Democratic Party does himself a grave disservice by this kind of unbecoming conduct in the House of Commons.

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[Translation]

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

PATRONAGE IN CHARLEVOIX CONSTITUENCY—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister and concerns patronage.

Mr. Speaker, the mayors of the regional municipality on the upper North Shore recently sent a letter to the Member for Charlevoix, accusing him of usurping the rights of municipalities for the benefit of Conservative organizers, and of letting the organizers select grant recipients and the people to be hired for the various projects.

My question to the Right Hon. Prime Minister is as follows. Considering the kind of patronage being indulged in by this Member, by which certain municipalities or individuals are given preference, depending on their political allegiance, could the Right Hon. Prime Minister give the people of Charlevoix, the Members of the House of Commons and people in all ridings throughout Canada that are represented by Progressive Conservative Members, the assurance that this appalling practice will be stopped immediately?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the people of the riding of Charlevoix reversed the previous 16,000-vote majority of the Liberals and voted against a Liberal Minister because of the patronage practised by that party in the past. The people of Charlevoix and all Quebecers know perfectly well that we deal fairly and squarely with all our municipalities and with all Quebecers, unlike the Liberals who favoured their own party followers exclusively, at all times. You are hardly in a position to rise in the House on questions about Quebec. Shame!

● (1130)

QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker, I did not expect the Prime Minister to accuse the mayors of the municipalities of Charlevoix of lying.

Mr. Speaker, Canadians found out recently that the Progressive Conservatives were setting up a big blue machine in Quebec. Could the Prime Minister inform the House whether the tactics being used by some of his Members in Quebec will form the foundation of a big blue machine in that province? Is this the kind of tactics the Progressive Conservative Party is going to use to build the power base they utterly lack in that province?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have to admit that the Progressive Conservative Party has not always had an easy time of it in Quebec, and that we had to start from scratch. It took a lot of hard work to build up an organization that includes people from all walks of life in our society. It took a lot of hard work, that I admit, but we have a democratic organization that is highly representative, and the people of Quebec have come over to our side and will continue to do so in increasing numbers, because they are so fed up with your behaviour in the House of Commons. You had better change, because you are going to be in the Opposition for a long time!

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[English]

NATIVE PEOPLES

CONTENTS OF ALLEGED CABINET DOCUMENT

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. There is a certain degree of hypocrisy in the responses coming from him and his Cabinet colleagues regarding this document. I would like to go back to the comment he just made that while he was under the bright lights with the Indian and Inuit leaders of this country, ferreted away in his office was the Deputy Prime Minister producing this document which is repugnant to Indian and Inuit people in this country and that is why the Government is finding it so sensitive.

Will the Prime Minister confirm what is stated in this document, that he met with the ministerial task force on native programs and that he confirmed the recommendations contained in this document?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): That's false.

RCMP INVESTIGATION

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, page 17 of the document says the Prime Minister has been consulted regarding his prerogatives on mandates. It is very clear in the—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An Hon. Member: Is that it?

Mr. Fulton: I am not going to quote from the whole of the document. My supplementary is directed to the President of the Privy Council. It is reported today that he or his Depart-