

Oral Questions

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I did attempt to deal with that question and I did indicate that lobbying was a question of fact, and the persons who lobbied or who were lobbied, are the best witnesses of whether it was lobbying or not. If there are some objective standards, Madam Speaker, I am prepared to apply them. And I put to the former Leader of the Opposition, the Member from Yellowhead North—Yellowhead—that Members of his Government are dealing with their former Departments. Are they lobbying or are they asking for information? I assume they are asking for information.

Lobbying I see as something that does happen in Ottawa, and it is a form of constant and insistent pressure. What is the margin, Madam Speaker, between asking for information about some government program, asking the Government to support that program, and actually seeing former Ministers, putting pressure on them, and calling on party loyalties and so on? That would be lobbying, but I repeat—

Madam Speaker: Order. Order, please.

Mr. Crosbie: Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister who is the Member from Mount Misery.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

SUBMISSION MADE TO TREASURY BOARD

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister, of course, has looked at the correspondence he has tabled, I feel sure, and he may find in it a memorandum which went first to the Treasury Board and the project came back again because of concerns about conflict of interest, which shows that those in the Treasury Board have more sensibility than the Prime Minister. Then some finagling was done to get around the problem that Mr. Gillespie was to get \$600 a day, or \$30,000 a year, and so on, from this project. Does that not indicate to the Prime Minister that there is something in this whole transaction which is wrong, if the Treasury Board had to refuse the project when it first came, and go back to the Minister of Finance who had to have knowledge of that?

Would the Prime Minister also say if his guidelines are now only to be left to the consciences of Liberal Ministers to decide whether they are broken or not, when those consciences have already acquired a great deal of scar—

Madam Speaker: Order, order!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I would like to point out to the Hon. Member that in the instance he talks about the document did not go to the Treasury Board. It was changed by officials. What he calls "finagling", I think a more respectable person would have said that the officials wanted to make sure there would be no appearance of wrongdoing. And that is why they made sure that in the case of a former Minister he would not have any access to public funds. That is what they did. That is what

they did without consulting me and without consulting the former Minister of Energy.

Mr. Crosbie: Permit wrongdoing, but not the appearance of wrongdoing, is that it?

Mr. Trudeau: Certainly it is to get rid of the appearance of wrongdoing that they did that. If they had thought there was wrongdoing, they obviously would have reported to the Minister and the transaction would have stopped. Once again, when the Hon. Member insists on the appearance of wrongdoing, I repeat what has been said by several Ministers on this side. There was a public announcement with the former Minister, Mr. Gillespie, there, in the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister, made with the Premier of Nova Scotia. If someone wants to do something wrong, they would not have gone on a platform, Madam Speaker. If it had been wrong, or even had the appearance of being wrong—

Madam Speaker: Order. Order.

ACTIONS OF ALASTAIR GILLESPIE—REQUEST FOR PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, I also would like to direct a question to the Prime Minister with regard to lobbying. The Prime Minister indicates that if there had been the appearance of lobbying, the officials would have brought that matter to the attention of the appropriate Minister. Quite clearly in a document dated April 14, 1981, it is stated there is also a question of Mr. Gillespie's participation, whether Mr. Gillespie's participation is in variance with the conflict of interest guidelines, and it goes on to say that Mr. Schulte, the counsel, "... replied that he would refer this question to the Privy Council Office". This memorandum was sent to the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Energy, which is tantamount to sending it to the Minister, as the Deputy Minister has an obligation to bring such matters of political importance to the Minister's attention. I ask the Prime Minister, given what is now known about the documentation which has been tabled, the series of meetings between—

Madam Speaker: Order. Order, please. The Hon. Member realizes, I am sure, that it is a few minutes only to twelve o'clock and he must more brief in his question.

Mr. Deans: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I hope it is only a few minutes to 12 o'clock. With the benefit of all of the information now available, does the Prime Minister not agree that Mr. Gillespie did in fact lobby? Does he not agree that, given what we now have, there ought to be a further inquiry into this matter in order that Mr. Gillespie can be called as a witness so that the people most involved can be questioned, in order that we can get to the bottom of this for the sake of the parliamentary system?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member goes back to the premise which