

Mr. Broadbent: No, you haven't answered it.

Mr. Nielsen: My responsibility is to ensure compliance with the Code. I have said that often enough.

Mr. de Jong: You haven't exercised your responsibility.

Mr. Nielsen: I have also said that I am satisfied that compliance has been had. If the Hon. Member is not prepared to accept that, there is nothing I can do to help him.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, the public has a right to know, I believe, an answer to this very simple question, that is, did the Minister through his wife, receive benefit as a result of this loan transaction? The Deputy Prime Minister refuses to answer the question. The Minister himself refuses to answer the question. To whom can we go with this question to obtain a straightforward and simple response?

● (1440)

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the assertion in the question of the hon. gentleman is absolutely false. I have continued to answer questions now for seven days in a row on this matter, as has the Minister concerned, as recently as yesterday.

Mr. Broadbent: You're taking the fifth amendment now!

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AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

HYUNDAI COMPANY—MINISTER'S ROLE WITHIN CABINET

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Deputy Prime Minister. In a previous Question Period the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion indicated that the decision to absolve Hyundai of its obligation to purchase billions of dollars worth of Canadian goods was made by Cabinet. In presenting his recommendations to Cabinet did that Minister declare his conflict of interest? Did he declare to Cabinet that he was the recipient of a loan which was held by a bank in which Hyundai was a major shareholder? Upon receipt of that information what action did the Prime Minister take in order to absolve that Minister of his responsibilities because of that conflict of interest?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Acting Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman has come to a conclusion which I do not share. Quite apart from that, he knows, or should know better than to ask me questions with respect to what goes on or what does not go on in Cabinet

Oral Questions

meetings since traditionally that has not been discussed on the floor of the House.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER DIVEST HIMSELF OF RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO HYUNDAI DECISIONS

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, in this very crucial case which will cost the country billions of dollars worth of goods, did the Minister declare the fact that he had a basic conflict because he was in receipt of a loan? Knowing now that he was in receipt of a loan—having that knowledge at the present time—is the Deputy Prime Minister now prepared to ask this Minister to absent himself from any responsibilities in making decisions as they relate to Hyundai which are clearly a conflict of interest?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman mixes up, as is his usual fashion, and as seems to be the habit of Members opposite, false premises with questions studded with accusations. I do not share his convictions.

Mr. Orlikow: You wouldn't admit it if you did share them.

Mr. Nielsen: I am satisfied that the answers of the Minister yesterday with respect to the so-called hundreds of millions of dollars of loss to Canada gave adequate explanation. The Hon. Member may choose not to believe that those figures are inaccurate—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Orlikow: Time to quit, Erik!

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THE ADMINISTRATION

CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES—APPLICATION TO MINISTER OF REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. The public has the right to know what is going on with regard to the conflict of interest guidelines. Will the Minister answer this question directly? Did the Minister receive some benefit from the loan negotiated by his wife with Magna International?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the public has a right to know that Ministers of the Crown have complied with the Code.

Mr. Nunziata: How do we know? Give us the facts.

Mr. Nielsen: There is a public record which is kept in the office of the Assistant Deputy Registrar General. I could ask the hon. gentleman whether or not he has visited the office of the Assistant Deputy Registrar General in order to look at the public records which are available to him. Has he done that?