

Supply

think the Canadian people are very interested in these issues. The Canadian people seek a Government that will act responsibly. The Canadian people want the appointments of men and women who have qualifications, who represent the diversity of this country and who have regional experience through the various levels of prosperity and lack of prosperity that exist in this country.

The Canadian people want boards to be broadly representative in every way. They do not want boards that are made up simply of friends and relatives of the Government. They do not want boards made up of Conservatives who have been particularly friendly with the Prime Minister in past years. In fact, there are probably many Conservatives who are still waiting for rewards. The Prime Minister has not had 15 years in which to satisfy every Conservative, and he has neglected supporters of other people while taking care of his own friends.

The Canadian people want boards to be properly representative, and when they hear about the Government spending money on advertising contracts, they want to be sure that they are getting good value for their money. The refusal of Members and Ministers opposite to say whether or not this behaviour is acceptable underscores the fact that they too do not want to go on record as saying that it was acceptable. By their refusal to answer, there is a concession that something happened here that should not have happened and that the regulations need to be made tighter.

I call for all of these contracts to be tendered. Surely such a provision can be made. We need a parliamentary committee which can consider appointments and ensure that the people who exercise power on behalf of the Canadian Government and the Canadian people are properly qualified to do so.

Some 10 years ago, President Nixon was involved in trying to change the nature of the Supreme Court of the United States so that it would suit his particular ideological predilections. Many Hon. Members will also remember the number of unfortunate nominations to the Supreme Court he put forward, nominations which Senate committees refused to pass. I will never forget one judge at a lower level who, when attacked for being too mediocre, asserted that the Supreme Court of the United States of America should offer among other things a place for mediocrity to be represented. In this case, what we have is mediocrity that is bearing the Conservative label, or mediocrity that carries PC membership cards in its wallet. That is not a situation which pleases the Canadian people. They applaud us this afternoon for being here where we ought to be doing the nation's business and asserting the principles that should govern.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I would like to compliment the Hon. Member. I do not think we have heard such a skilful weaving of sanctimony and hypocrisy in one speech in a long time.

The Member made a lot of suggestions as to how things should be done. I would like to examine those suggestions for a moment. He suggests that he holds the action of appointing one's friends and acquaintances in contempt. He wanted the power of review of appointments to large Crown corporations and boards given to a committee. He did not want these

appointees made up of friends of the Government. He made the comment that he did not think these appointees should have the membership cards of the Party in power in their pockets.

When Saul Cherniak, the Manitoba NDP M.L.A., was appointed Chairman of Manitoba Hydro, did he have an NDP membership card in his pocket? Was his appointment reviewed by the parliamentary committee which the Hon. Member so loftily suggests should be put in place? Having dealt with Saul Cherniak, could he enlighten us on Mark Eliesen, the former staff member of the NDP National Party who was appointed the research director to the Chairman of Manitoba Hydro? Did his appointment also go through that very lofty and sanctimonious review procedure? Did he or did he not have an NDP Party membership card in his pocket when he was appointed?

Mr. Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, these are questions of fact to which I cannot answer yes or no. It is quite likely that Mr. Cherniak had a membership card somewhere about and close enough to him that I would be inclined to say yes to that question. As far as Mr. Eliesen's appointment is concerned, I really do not know.

I will cheerfully deal with the point of the question, though, and that is whether or not in fact there should be such procedures. I think there should be. As to whether or not the provincial New Democratic Government of Manitoba should do this or not, in my opinion the answer is clearly yes. That the failure of one provincial Government to provide such a committee in any way excuses the Government of Canada from providing one does not seem to me to be an argument that is at all convincing. I would like this Government to lead. It happens to be the one which I am in, so I will do my part and suggest the directions which I think we should take. After all, these proposals are not entirely novel. Certainly, it is not solely my suggestion that we should have such a committee. Indeed, it was part of my campaign in Thunder Bay-Nipigon to propose such a committee. I believe the Prime Minister has also expressed opinions on this matter which would be well worth examining. I look forward to consideration being given to establishing such a committee and going through with it at an early date. That is what the question is.

• (1620)

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a brief comment and then I would like to put a question to the Hon. Member.

As I indicated earlier today, there has been some attempt to suggest that thousands of appointments have been made by Order in Council by this Government during the period in which it has been in power. I believe the record should be set straight. On March 27, the Leader of the New Democratic Party stated that over a thousand such appointments had been made, and today the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) said that the Government had appointed over 1,200 people. The fact of the matter is that since September 4, 1984,