

Oral Questions

REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe): Madam Speaker, will the Acting Prime Minister please give us the assurance that, in order to ensure the highest standards of probity are followed in the future, an independent officer of Parliament will be appointed who can report to Parliament, not to the Government of the day, on whether or not a breach of the guidelines has taken place?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has asked for a parliamentary Committee. How he asks for an independent individual. I do not know what his third suggestion might be.

Mr. Beatty: Resign.

Mr. MacEachen: He seems to have a number of proposals. The Prime Minister stated yesterday that he was giving consideration to or reflecting upon the possibility of improving the guidelines, particularly to remove the possibility of the unjustified interpretations which have been placed upon these guidelines by members of the Opposition. I would be personally in favour of any process which might induce Hon. Members to read the guidelines, to understand them, and to interpret them in a just and fair way. That has not been done up to the present time.

OBSERVANCE OF GUIDELINES

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, would the Deputy Prime Minister not agree that the ordinary effect of the guidelines imposed by the Prime Minister would be that they be observed to the letter of those guidelines and, if they are not, an offending Minister must resign?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, we have been over that ground a thousand times in the last two weeks. I have nothing further to add to the subject, or indeed to the question which has been raised so frequently on the other side.

Mr. Nielsen: I simply put that question to the Deputy Prime Minister because I am sure Hon. Members of the House would have been interested in what he considers to be a fair and just interpretation of the guidelines. Indeed, that is our interpretation; if the guidelines imposed by the Prime Minister are not observed, the offender should resign.

● (1420)

APPLICATION OF GUIDELINES TO MINISTERS SERVING IN SENATE

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, let me ask the Deputy Prime Minister a question concerning a press release mentioning the Andras and Gillespie cases as well as comments made by Senators Olson and

Perrault. Since this question, exposed by the media, involves two sitting Ministers in the Government, and some that we cannot question in this House because they are in the other place, does the Deputy Prime Minister not feel that the House is owed an explanation as to that case, since those two Members of the Government have themselves drawn a distinction between the Andras Case and the Gillespie case?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, as I understand it, the Ministers have drawn a distinction with respect to the facts, and the facts differ in different cases.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacEachen: They are not the same because of the difference in the type of applicants for assistance, for example. There were a variety, as I understand it, in the case which the Hon. Member raised today. To that extent the facts differ, and obviously facts will differ with each different case.

An Hon. Member: That is a pretty weak answer.

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AIR TRANSPORT

WINNIPEG AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTRE—EFFECT ON FAMILIES OF PROPOSED TRANSFER

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. He was asked a question last week with regard to the Liberal Government's plans to move the Winnipeg air traffic control centre from Winnipeg to Edmonton and Toronto. The Minister said:

All that is being considered is a temporary relocation of controllers—

Can the Minister tell us whether he is going to move these 250 men and their families, and is the Minister going to be finding accommodation for them in Edmonton and Toronto? What are they to do with their Winnipeg homes? How long will they be away from Winnipeg, in Edmonton and Toronto? I would like a clear explanation of what is to happen to their families because that is of particular interest to the 250 controllers.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I have asked for that information but I have not yet been given it. This rumour is one based on a project only, not on an actual plan. If my memory serves me well, that change would take place in 1988. Obviously we have a bit of time to think about how it will be done. May I emphasize that this is not going to happen tomorrow, next month, or the month after that.

FUTURE OF PRESENT EMPLOYEES

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Madam Speaker, I would like the Minister to make sure about that by asking his officials, because we have been through this sort of