

made it perfectly clear that they are getting sick and tired of the revelations every day of new scandals and corruption in the Government. I am tired of it—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Riis:—and my colleagues are tired of it.

What concrete steps does the Government plan to take to begin the very difficult process of building credibility and public confidence in the integrity of the Government?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I would think that the public are getting a little sick and tired of repeated questions. That question was put by the Hon. Member yesterday and his Leader asked precisely the same question the day before. I would invite him to read *Hansard* in case he has not done so.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER MAKE STATEMENT

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I wonder why the Deputy Prime Minister does not one day say enough is enough, let us put history behind us and say we are going to turn over with a new leaf by setting an example of a positive approach in this House.

Would the Deputy Prime Minister not agree that it would be appropriate for the Prime Minister of Canada, when he returns to the House, to stand in his place, and make a comprehensive statement outlining the precise steps that he and the Government plan to take to begin the slow process of building confidence in the Government?

An Hon. Member: Eliminate the Opposition.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am rather surprised at the Hon. Member who has distinguished himself in this House for a number of years as a fair-minded individual. I think if the Member really thought about his question he would simply ask himself whether it is fair, day in and day out, to hurl across the floor of the House unsubstantiated allegations, to take part in character assassination and innuendo such as we have witnessed—

Mr. Lapierre: Documented.

Mr. Mazankowski:—and contribute to a very poisonous environment. Where there has been clear evidence of any apparent appearance of conflict or wrongdoing, action has been taken by the Government. So far all we have had are a number of unsubstantiated allegations, with a different version emanating from the Opposition day by day. Every day a new story, a new revelation, and a new version.

Oral Questions

THE ADMINISTRATION

DRUMMONDVILLE CONTRACT—AMOUNT OF TENDERS

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works and it concerns the Drummondville Public Works contract.

Yesterday in the House of Commons the Minister said, as reported in *Hansard*:

I should make it clear for all Members of the House that the Brodilaf group made the lowest tender—

How can the Minister reconcile his statement of yesterday with that of his Chief of Staff, Ron Lefebvre, who is reported in today's press as having said that the other bid, the Hama bid, was \$65,000 cheaper? Whose version is correct, and why is there such a contradiction?

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I indicated that the Brodilaf group made the lowest tender and the amount of its tender was \$2,500 lower than the Hama group. But the Department said, as is the course and custom governing contracts of this kind, that it had to factor in the costs of moving from the Hama building to the new premises. Those additional costs had to be considered. Then we had to look at what was the real value for the Government—

An Hon. Member: Tory value.

Mr. McInnes:—what value the Government was going to get, and after all those matters were taken into consideration we made a decision.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE PUBLIC INQUIRY

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, that is exactly the kind of answer that makes Opposition Members ask some very serious questions about this matter. Considering the veil of mystery that shrouds this affair, considering the contradictory statements made by the Minister and his assistants, by other Ministers, by a Member involved in this matter and by everybody else, is the Minister, once and for all, prepared to table in the House all the documents related to this matter, including the Public Works documentation? Finally, is he or is the Deputy Prime Minister prepared to order a public inquiry into this whole affair so that Canadians will know who is telling the truth?

[English]

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, three days ago the Hon. Member asked me that question. Three days ago I indicated that if he wanted any information relative to this file that I would gladly make it available to him. The invitation still stands and I am prepared to defend any decision relative to the awarding of this contract.

Mr. Rossi: Table the documents.