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*Tabling of Documents*

do not meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

[English]

The petitions presented by the Hon. Member for Broadview-Greenwood (Ms. McDonald) and the Hon. Member for Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands (Mr. Manly) by filing with the Clerk of the House also meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

dealing with an experimental program of parliamentary scrutiny of Governor in Council appointments, which I know we all hope will become a permanent feature of our parliamentary democracy here in Canada.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** Fifth, there is a document dealing with the registration of lobbying activity in Ottawa. Sixth, a document dealing with advice to Crown corporations respecting appropriate conduct in their dealings with the Government has been tabled. The seventh document deals with a review of the judicial appointments process.

[Translation]

To this end, Mr. Speaker I am tabling today a set of documents detailing several aspects of a package of major initiatives on public sector ethics undertaken by this Government.

This afternoon I wish to provide my colleagues in the House with some thoughts in explanation of the documents and to acquaint the House with other elements of the package which will soon be placed before the House in documentary form.

There are seven components in the over-all program, as I mentioned earlier. First, there is a new conflict of interest/post-employment code for public office holders, which has been tabled.

Second, there are instructions to Ministers imposing specific and strict limitations on the hiring of family members, which has also been tabled.

Third, there are letters to the Leaders of the Opposition on the subject of ethical conduct for all MPs and Senators, which has been tabled.

Fourth, there is a document dealing with an experimental program of parliamentary scrutiny of Governor in Council appointments. At this point, Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention the work done by all Members on the Committee, and especially by the Hon. Member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) and the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet) who did an excellent job.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** Fifth, a document dealing with the registration of lobbying activity in Ottawa.

Sixth, a document dealing with advice to Crown corporations respecting appropriate conduct in their dealings with the Government has been tabled.

The seventh document deals with a review of the judicial appointments process.

[English]

Mr. Speaker, we have not made final decisions in all of the component areas. However, we are putting forward an authoritative outline of our intentions today. Some elements,

*Documents available from Assistant Repetitor General*  
**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[Translation]

**THE GOVERNMENT**

**TABLING OF FOUR DOCUMENTS**

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 47(2), I have the honour of laying on the Table, in both official languages, the four following documents: First, a new conflict of interest/post-employment code for public office holders. Second, instructions to Ministers imposing specific and strict limitations on the hiring of family members. Third, letters to the Leaders of the Opposition on the subject of ethical conduct for all MPs and Senators. Fourth, advice to Crown corporations concerning their relations with the central Government.

[English]

Mr. Speaker, anyone who expected the documents to be tabled with a red ribbon on them knows that my non-partisanship only goes to so many limites.

It is a great principle of public administration—I could even say an imperative—that to function effectively the government and the public service of a democracy must have the trust and confidence of the public they serve. In order to reinforce that trust, the government must be able to provide competent management and, above all, to be guided by the highest standards of conduct. To this end, I am tabling today a set of documents detailing several aspects of a package of major initiatives on public sector ethics undertaken by this Government.

This afternoon I wish to provide my colleagues in the House with some thoughts in explanation of the documents and to acquaint the House with other elements of the package which will soon be placed before the House in documentary form. There are seven components in the over-all program.

First, there is a new conflict of interest/post-employment code for public office holders, which has been tabled. Second, there are instructions to Ministers imposing specific and strict limitations on the hiring of family members, which has also been tabled. Third, there are letters to the Leaders of the Opposition on the subject of ethical conduct for all MPs and Senators, which has been tabled. Fourth, there is a document

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such as the new conflict of interest/post-employment code for public office holders are ready for implementation. The code will take effect on January 1, 1986, once the necessary infrastructure is in place. In the interim, Ministers and Governor in Council appointees will conduct themselves in accordance with its provisions.

Other elements, such as the experimental program of parliamentary scrutiny of Order in Council appointments, will be refined through discussion with Leaders of the Opposition and with the benefit of experience. We would like to consult, again, the distinguished Members, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee on the Reform of the House of Commons.

Still others, such as the review of the judicial appointments process, will require more consultation with the Canadian Bar Association before detailed proposals can be advanced.

*[Translation]*

For the first time in this country's history, Mr. Speaker, the government has laid before Parliament a broad program of initiatives concerning public sector ethics.

This is tangible proof that the government is determined to see to it that the affairs of state are conducted according to the very highest standards.

*[English]*

Rather than dealing at some length with each component orally, I have tabled today an open letter to Members of Parliament and Senators which delineates each of the seven components in summary form, highlighting the most important aspects which Members should consider.

*[Translation]*

As indicated in the document I have just tabled, it provides a set of reform measures that reflect the Government's intention, and I would add that of all parliamentarians, to adopt a standard of ethics that will meet with the respect of all Canadians. In this way, we want to strengthen the economic renewal process and enhance the faith of Canadians in our Government institutions.

Many of these measures have been awaited for some time, and sometimes, Mr. Speaker, this Government would have wished that they were already in place. They now are or are about to become so, and we can look forward, in the near future, to a new era of confidence and respect.

● (1510)

*[English]*

The documents, the ideas and the propositions, Mr. Speaker, are placed before all Hon. Members of Parliament today in the genuine belief that they will enhance the respect which Canadians must have for Parliament as a noble institution.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** I believe I just heard the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) at his unctuous best attempting, presumably in a non-partisan fashion,

to disguise the most blatant series of partisan appointments over the last year than we have had in the history of our country.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** The Prime Minister has spoken about civility in this House. I received a copy of the documents which were just tabled and a copy of the statement the Prime Minister has just read at one thirty this afternoon, a half hour before Parliament assembled for Question Period. I do not know whether my friend, the Leader of the New Democratic Party, received earlier communication.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** It was in accordance with our arrangements.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** It is absolutely impossible for any member of the Opposition, particularly myself and my colleague, the Leader of the New Democratic Party, with our responsibilities, to respond with some clarity and with some profound appreciation of what is in that pile of documents.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Never complain and never explain, John.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** I will say as well, of course, that I am suspicious. The House Leader may protest but he knows how the business of the House ought to be conducted.

**An Hon. Member:** He's a dummy, anyway.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** He knows.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** I am also suspicious of the coincidence of the timing of the tabling of these documents today. The Government is faced with a bank scandal. The Government is faced with a financial Titanic and it hopes that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) may be able to pre-empt the news and distract the attention of the country and of the media by this little subterfuge.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Chrétien:** The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) is running away now.

**Ms. Copps:** Run away, Mike.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Bye, bye, Mike.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** The Minister of Finance has just left the House shaking his head. We hope he will stand in this House tomorrow and defend the issues for which he has statutory responsibility.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Right on.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** The issues of the guidelines and the conflicts of interest, Mr. Speaker, arose in this House several months ago. Why the delay? Why do we have to

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wait until the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark)—and he is now leaving—is able to favour his brother? Why do we have to wait until the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) is able to dispense his largesse to his sons in Newfoundland? Why do we have to wait until the Minister of Finance—who just left the House—has favoured his brother-in-law? Why so late? Are these guidelines retroactive? Will the so-called experimental scrutiny affect the 1,200 appointments which have already been made?

**Mr. Chrétien:** One every three hours.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** I suppose, Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members of the House are entitled to ask the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen) if these guidelines are going to be any more enforced than the guidelines which are currently before the House. Are these guidelines going to be breached the way Mr. Trudeau's guidelines which are currently in force were breached by the Minister of Justice, by the Minister of Finance and by the Secretary of State for External Affairs? That is a question we are entitled to ask.

I notice that the Prime Minister, following some of the recommendations of the Hon. Member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath), on an experimental basis only, will allow some Governor in Council appointments to be scrutinized by a parliamentary committee.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** All.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** We will see, and we will see how effective that is. That is not what the Prime Minister said during the election campaign. He said all appointments were going to be scrutinized.

**An Hon. Member:** And not on an experimental basis.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** And not on an experimental basis. We want a commitment—

**Mr. Chrétien:** And not a year too late.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):**—and not a year too late, not after the barn door has been closed and the horse has escaped.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** All of them retroactive.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** The Prime Minister's supporters, his friends and intimates, have been in the trough for over a year. That is enough time to accomplish the evil. Now we look sanctimonious, we look statesman-like, we look parliamentary and we bring in these guidelines, some of them on an experimental basis.

**Mr. Dick:** He looks better than you.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** During the election campaign the Prime Minister set very high expectations for the

performance of this House. He breached those expectations blatantly during the last 12 months. There has been the most consistent patronage, partisan and crony-like appointments in the history of this country.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Frankly, when I looked at the Prime Minister closely as he wrapped himself in the cloak of prime ministerial non-partisanship, I said, what a shameless hypocrite after his conduct during the last year.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Stevens:** Withdraw.

**Mr. Rossi:** Bravo.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) is an experienced Member of the House. I think he knows that to accuse someone of being a shameless hypocrite is not terribly parliamentary. I would ask him to withdraw.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Which word, Mr. Speaker, would you like me to withdraw?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition knows the difficulty these situations create. I would simply ask him to do what he knows is the right thing and to withdraw the comment.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Which one?

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Do you want me to withdraw the word "shameless" or the word "hypocrite", Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Dick:** You know better, John Turner.

**Mr. Speaker:** I invite the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition to do the right honourable thing and withdraw the comment "shameless hypocrite".

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** If that is your interpretation of the rules then, of course, I accept it, Mr. Speaker. May I say—and I do withdraw those words—that the Prime Minister has been blatantly cynical over the past year in the way he has treated appointments of the Crown.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** I notice that the guidelines, or the package tabled under "blue ribbon" today, does not include contracts awarded by the Crown. I would invite the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the House Leader to review with the Hon. Member for St. John's East whether contracts under the benefit of the Crown also ought to be included within these guidelines because, coincidentally, *The Ottawa Citizen* headline of September 7, reads, "Firm

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hires PM's pal, \$200,000 job follows". This involves the Prime Minister's pal, Sam Wakim, apparently a former classmate at St. Francis Xavier University. Is this type of thing covered? We had a preliminary review of those documents and we do not see this type of arrangement covered at all.

All I will say, Mr. Speaker, is that we were not given the time to review these documents thoroughly. We will give them a close study. We suspect that they may well be more cosmetic camouflage. In any event, the Government will have the co-operation of this side of the House if there is any sincerity at all on its part.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, among the many things said by the Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Turner) which were accurate, was the fact that we did not receive advance notice with regard to the tabling of the documents here today. For that reason I am responding on behalf of my leader and my caucus. I would like to begin by saying that at first glance—which is really all we have been able to have—it seems as if the guidelines will go further than the guidelines which previously existed. It seems as if what the Government is intent on doing will provide more restrictive guidelines and will bring about a better code of behaviour than existed under the guidelines which are now in place.

The question, of course, will be—as is now the case—will these guidelines be adhered to any more closely than the guidelines which are presently in place? It has been a question asked in the House of Commons for the last five years. The guidelines are interpreted, it seems, to satisfy the mood of the government of the day. I want to say that if in establishing new guidelines we can have some assurance that there will be a common interpretation by everyone in the House of Commons as to how they are to be enforced, then I think we will have gone a long way towards solving what was a very difficult and acrimonious period. And that was from the early part of 1980 into the early part of this administration.

● (1520)

I also want to say that it strikes me, at first glance, that these guidelines may well put in place a regime which will preclude another orgy of patronage such as occurred at the end of the last Liberal Government. I hope that that is the case. I hope that as a result of these guidelines this Government will not be in a position, at the time of its defeat, to appoint any number of its inadequate back-benchers and hangers-on to positions of a permanent nature in the Public Service or government agencies.

I also want to say that the performance of this Government until now in its appointment of friends and cronies and old pals to political patronage positions is not something to be proud of. I admit that there two or three notable exceptions, as the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) frequently points out, but when you compare those to the thousands of appointments made, this is hardly a record to be proud of. Therefore, I was

pleased to note that the opportunity will be there in the future for Members of Parliament to review retroactively the qualifications and quality of the appointments made by this Government after it assumed office on September 4, 1984.

Having said that, I hope the House of Commons and the Senate will take seriously, if you will, the request of the Prime Minister and that the Speakers of both Houses will in fact review in consultation whatever is required to be reviewed in order to determine the appropriate behaviour for Members in addition to those who happen to be Ministers of the Crown. However, based on past performance, I am not too optimistic about what the future holds. I look at the Government House Leader (Mr. Hnatyshyn) and the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen) and I remember the long debates we had in the House over what was appropriate behaviour when the Liberals were in government regarding certain of their former Cabinet colleagues who engaged in business after they left Government. I remember the way this Government castigated the previous Government for its despicable abuse of both patronage and entrée to the Civil Service using powers that had been gained while in office.

I am hoping to see an end to this kind of thing. I note that it is referred to but I am not quite sure how it is going to be dealt with. Therefore, I think the proof will lie with the passage of time. Once we see the more definitive description of how we intend to implement and enforce, then perhaps we will have more confidence. However, I say to the Prime Minister that were we to base our confidence on the performance of the past year, it would be pretty shaky.

\* \* \*

## PETITIONS

### CALL FOR PASSAGE OF BILL C-49

**Mr. Rob Nicholson (Niagara Falls):** Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege as a Member of Parliament to present a petition signed by almost 2,000 residents of the City of Niagara Falls who, because of the increase in the incidence of prostitution and associated violence, have asked that this House immediately pass Bill C-49.

### HIGH WATER LEVELS IN LAKE SUPERIOR

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by 247 of my constituents, including residents of the Township of Shuniah, Amethyst Beach, as well as members of the Island Beach Campers' Association. They are seriously concerned about damage to their property caused by high water levels in Lake Superior. This damage is due in part to unseasonably heavy rainfall, but it is also due to actions by the Board of Control of the International Joint Commission in keeping the water level of Lake Superior high to preserve properties in the lower lakes. Your petitioners humbly pray that the Government of Canada