

# Sinc Stevens a dedicated public servant

Dear Editor: Canada has lost one of its most dedicated and competent public servants—for now! In my opinion, the Honorable Sinclair M. Stevens was a man of unparalleled honesty and integrity. He worked for Canada and was successful in helping secure Economic Renewal for this country. It was Mr Stevens who was successful in luring Toyota and Hyundai to invest in Canada. And no matter what the circumstances, this helped create many direct jobs and indirectly related jobs.

Look at what's happened. Mr Stevens has been slapped in the face for his dedication and personal commitment to Canadians. From the outset, the media and Opposition were out to get only one thing in this "Stevens Affair," the ex-minister's head! Isn't the role of the media to report news to the public in the most objective way possible, including all the facts so as not to mislead readers? Since when did the media take on the role of character assassins?

From day one, when the Globe and Mail printed the story on Noreen Stevens' loan, many pertinent facts were omitted from

print. Why? The media and the sleazy Opposition would not have had their story; their scandal; if the whole truth had been published.

First of all, the media played upon the fact Mrs Stevens received an interest-free loan of 2.6 million dollars. However, the loan was only interest free in the first year. Interest in subsequent years would be about 12%. Furthermore, in making up for local interest in the first year, York Centre, (Mrs Stevens), would pay the lender one-half of all profits accrued from real estate sales. Clearly, this type of deal is common in the business world when dealing with cash-starved companies. So where's the big scandal?

The supposed scandal is this. The media created the perception that Mrs Stevens received the loan from Magna International, and only because Magna dealt

with her husband's department and had received grants. This is where the alleged conflict of interest is supposed to lie. But Mr Stevens put all his interests in York Centre in a blind trust when he became a Cabinet Minister! So what, shout the Opposition!

On the CBC Journal, May 12, Frank Stronach, President of Magna International revealed Mrs Stevens did not know that Anton Czapka, from whom she borrowed the money, was previously involved with Magna. Furthermore, Stronach admitted that Mrs Stevens did not come to him seeking money from Magna, but came to seek his personal advice. Mrs Stevens and Mr Stronach have been friends for years. In fact, Stronach told Ms. Frum that Mrs Stevens would never do anything that would harm her husband's political career.

The first point in this affair, that most really have feminists screaming, is that most people could not understand how Mrs Stevens could manage a business, (York Centre), without having to consult her husband. Com on, this is 1986!

Noreen Stevens is a business professional. She is highly re-

spected in the business community. She has gained this respect on her own merit, not because of who her husband is. Mrs Stevens has always been involved in the management of York Centre Corporation. She did not just become an instant businesswoman when Sinc put his interests in the company into a blind trust. This is the perception most journalists created. It is not as if Mr Stevens said, "Now, Noreen, I am a Cabinet Minister and can thus not be involved in my business any more. Would you look after it for me wife dear!"

The most startling thing in this whole story that did not surface in the media reports until around May 9 is that most of the grants to Magna Int., from DRIE were, in fact, approved by the previous Liberal Government. Mr Stevens' department was merely granting funds that had already been promised. This would surely weaken the Opposition's case. When Mr Stevens presented this information during a Question Period and offered to table all relevant information, the Opposition did not want to see it. Again, with this information, there would have been no case against Mr Stevens. The "Rat Pack" went rabid and could not be cured!

You got his head, Mr Turner, Mr Broadbent and Mr Media! But the last laugh will be with loyal supporters of Mr Stevens, like myself. The impartial inquiry will hear ALL the evidence and surely exonerate Mr Stevens. As Mr Mulroney indicated, Sinc will return to Cabinet.

The whole affair disgusts me. The real scandal lies with the collaboration of the media and the Opposition to get Stevens' Why? Perhaps it's because Mr Stevens was too effective a Minister for the Opposition and the media to handle.

Sincerely,  
Mrs Joan de Pass,  
Heathwood Heights Drive,  
Aurora

## Honored

Roy and Velma Flewell of Ringwood were honored at a gathering, Sunday, in the Ballantrae Community Centre. The occasion was in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary. Close to 200 family friends and relatives attended.

## BETHESDA, W.I.

The Bethesda Women's Institute has been invited to visit the Heritage Museum north-west of Uxbridge, Wed., June 11. Members will leave Stouffville at 9 a.m. Lunch will be enjoyed at The River Bend Inn, Uxbridge. For additional information call 888-1779 or 640-3679.

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