

*Oral Questions*

## MINISTER'S STATEMENT

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I did not realize that the question was addressed to me until the end. Will the Hon. Member repeat it?

**Mr. Riis:** Madam Speaker, as a result of an apparent leak yesterday afternoon, selected journalists and friends were in receipt of privileged information that they could have or may have used for personal gain for themselves and for others. Would this not justify the Prime Minister asking for the resignation of the Minister of Finance?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, I do not know what the Hon. Member is referring to when he says "selected journalists and friends". Is the Hon. Member inferring that the Minister of Finance gave information to friends and to journalists in a way that they might profit?

## MINISTER'S DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENT

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, yesterday afternoon, after inviting a number of journalists into his office, the Minister of Finance held up a document and was televised saying, "This is the budget." Is the Prime Minister saying that that was not the budget?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I would be revealing budget secrecy if I told what was going to be in the budget tonight.

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

**Mr. Dick:** That is what Lalonde did last night.

**Mr. Trudeau:** It seems to be a very crude trap to ask me if something is in the budget or not. Then I will be accused by the Hon. Member of saying that something is in the budget or it is not. Why does he not wait until tonight to see what is in the budget?

## POSSIBILITY OF DOCUMENT BEING CHANGED

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, will the Prime Minister assure Members of the House, as a result of what appears to be some fiasco in the last number of hours, that the document that was televised in the office of the Minister of Finance yesterday will not be changed and has not been changed?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, what is the Hon. Member saying? For many months they have been suggesting things that should be in the budget. Now they are suggesting things that should not be in the budget.

**Mr. Riis:** Just say you will not change it.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I wish they would wait until the budget and make up their minds whether it is good or not.

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Yellowhead):** Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister will know that the Minister of Finance held up the document yesterday which was subsequently photographed, and said, "This is the budget." When the Minister of Finance said that, was he telling the truth or was he lying?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I do not think that the Right Hon. Member can ask an either/or in that question. At that point maybe the Minister intended that be the budget. Until the budget is—

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

**Mr. Darling:** The old shell game.

**An Hon. Member:** Thanks for word processors.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I do not quite understand the hilarity over there.

**An Hon. Member:** You are the one who is laughing.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Surely a budget becomes a budget when it is delivered as a budget speech. Otherwise, with any number of previous drafts, one could ask if they were the budget or not. In that sense the Minister of Finance would be locked into some earlier decision at any point in time that suits the convenience and argumentation of the former Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Clark:** The Prime Minister has not been prepared to say that the Minister was telling the truth when he said, "This is the budget." He has suggested that the budget might have been changed.

## MINISTER'S INTENTION

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Yellowhead):** Madam Speaker, let me put another question to the Prime Minister. When the Minister of Finance held up the document which was photographed and said, "This is the budget," did he intend that the document that he held up would be the budget?

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

**Mr. Clark:** I am reminded that this is the gang that laughed when they threw out guidelines governing the conduct of Ministers which should have caused the resignation of three of them. I am not surprised that they are laughing now at parliamentary practice.

Let me put the question very clearly. The Minister of Finance was shown on television holding a document and saying, "This is the budget." At the time he held that document of which he said "This is the budget," did he intend that document to be the budget?

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