

*Oral Questions*

**Some Hon. Members:** Guilty, guilty. Cover-up, cover-up.

**Ms. Copps:** The Minister participated in a cover-up.

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**THE BUDGET**

## CALL FOR RESIGNATION OF MINISTER

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** My question is for the Minister of Finance. Would the Minister of Finance explain to the House why, when he received the information from Global Television at 5.30 p.m. last night that detailed elements of the Budget sufficiently to indicate very clearly that someone had a leaked document, will the Minister of Finance explain why he did not come into the House at that time, when the House of Commons was still in session, to explain what had happened and to do the honourable thing and resign?

**Mr. Andre:** He would have required unanimous consent, which you wouldn't give.

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** I think the previous answer by my colleague, the Government House Leader, has indicated very clearly what we did.

When I found out the information, I first called the Prime Minister, I then called the Government House Leader and the Deputy Prime Minister, and advised them of this, and I said "I think it might be wise if we kept the House open pending"—

**Mr. Gauthier:** Why didn't you tell the House?

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** —until we could ascertain more precisely what we were expecting to hear on the Global Television program.

When that information did come, we then went to the Leader of the New Democratic Party, the Leader of the Official Opposition, and requested a special sitting of the House at which we could provide that information to the House. That request was denied.

## MINISTER'S RESIGNATION REQUESTED

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** The question for the Minister of Finance or the Prime Minister is the following: What the Minister of Finance has just indicated is that at 5.30 p.m. there was sufficient evidence to believe there was a leak.

**Mr. Andre:** No there wasn't.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Oh, yes there was. They had the figures.

**Mr. Riis:** They had the detailed information, however the House was misled. Rather than come to the House recognizing that the possibility existed, the House Leader came in and gave some spurious argument that he wanted to continue to debate the issue of the day. They knew it was before us, but they didn't have the courage to come in and explain what had happened.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** That is false.

**Mr. Riis:** I want to ask the Prime Minister a question. You asked for the resignation of a previous Minister who visited a nightclub in Germany. This Finance Minister has committed the largest political, parliamentary financial blunder in history. Why wouldn't you ask for his resignation?

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** We do take these matters extremely seriously.

**Some Hon. Members:** Cover-up, cover-up.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** That is why we did not jump to snap conclusions, as the Hon. Member is suggesting that we should have done. We felt that it was very important for us to substantiate what was being told us on the telephone before jumping to a quick conclusion that we had to, in his way, scrap a Budget or come immediately to the House.

**Mr. Tobin:** Meanwhile the stock market is trading away.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Let me just read what the reporter, Mr. Small said: "Many of these things have been predicted, but as I say this was incredibly well detailed, but on the basis of only one anonymous phone call we were not going to report the detail that we have got it". So that is the basis on which my colleague, the House Leader, felt we should try, as a precautionary measure, to keep the House open until we found out precisely what sort of information we were dealing with.

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**THE BUDGET**

## ASSURANCES SOUGHT RESPECTING REINFORCEMENT OF RESERVES UNIT

**Mr. Holtmann (Portage—Interlake):** I want to direct my question to the Minister of Defence.