

### Oral Questions

using the same personnel and the same standards, lay charges against somebody else, the Member says there has been political interference by this Government. You cannot have it both ways. The evening of the budgetary leak, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police received the instructions. From that moment on all matters relating to that particular incident were being investigated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and all information was imparted by public servants and others in the pursuit of justice by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

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

#### QUERY AS TO TELEPHONE CALLS—GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General. We learned this morning that the Senior Deputy Associate Minister of Justice initiated calls to his counterparts in the Crown in Ottawa and in Toronto. We learned this morning in the Justice Committee that his senior deputy sat in on a meeting with the Commissioner of the RCMP.

I want to ask the Minister, how can he defend this blatant interference in the administration of justice by his senior deputy? Who was the senior deputy acting on behalf of? Was he acting on behalf of the Minister of Finance? Was he acting on behalf of the Minister of Justice? Why, according to the Commissioner of the RCMP, did he not bring to the attention of the RCMP the fact that to charge Doug Small would constitute a very serious attack on freedom of the press in Canada? Why did he not do that?

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I am perfectly willing to answer the first part of the question. I draw the Chair's attention and the Assembly's attention to the fact that any discussion of that case is *sub judice*.

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

**Mr. Robinson:** Mr. Speaker, there seems to be one standard for the Government and another standard for other Canadians, when the Prime Minister through his

accusation of criminal wrong-doing prejudiced this investigation from the very beginning.

#### CLARIFICATION REQUESTED—CAUTION BY MR. SPEAKER

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is again for the Minister of Justice. It is extraordinary that this Minister still does not know at 2.30 this afternoon whether his official initiated conversations, or whether he was called. The Minister is either totally incompetent or he is deliberately covering up what happened in this—

**Mr. Speaker:** I wonder if the Hon. Member could put his question, please.

**Mr. Robinson:** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister this: Will the Minister clarify, in view of the fact that his senior deputy was apparently acting on behalf of the Minister of Finance, what advice did his senior deputy give to the RCMP? Did he advise them that it would be a serious mistake to charge Doug Small, that it would be an attack on freedom of the press in Canada? What did he do—

**Mr. Speaker:** I am trying to be very careful in dividing two things here. There are questions that have been asked about what happened prior to charges being laid. Members are I think properly keeping away from questions and comments on what happened after the charges were laid. The Hon. Member is getting into a difficult area here because the question seems to go to the issue of whether or not a charge should be laid. That, it seems to me, is something that perhaps the court will have eventually decide. I think that I will have to, under the circumstances, not allow that question.

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### INTERNATIONAL TRADE

#### FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—REQUEST THAT GEOLOGISTS BE INCLUDED IN SCHEDULE II

**Mr. Al Johnson (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister for International Trade, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Privatization. Geologists in Canada are some of the world's best. Their dedication and expertise have attracted international respect and have created a demand for their