

S. O. 31

THE BUDGET

DOCUMENT LEAK—ACTIONS OF OPPOSITION AND
GLOBAL TV

Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, as days pass and tempers cool, Canadians will judge the decisions and actions of the Government, the Opposition and the media. A Budget affects the economic well-being of Canada as a nation and also Canadians individually, whether as lenders, borrowers, importers, exporters or travellers.

When someone stole the Budget and Global TV took possession and published that stolen document, it caused harm to Canada and to Canadians individually. When the two Leaders of the Opposition Parties refused to permit Parliament to convene and deal with the grave situation, they put their own personal and Party interests ahead of the interest of Parliament and Canada.

• (1410)

Some Hon. Members: Shameful.

Mr. Thacker: I have no doubt, Mr. Speaker, but that Canadians will harshly judge the Opposition and Global TV for acting in a selfish manner rather than in the best interest of Canada and Canadians.

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THE BUDGET

CALL FOR RESIGNATION OF MINISTER OF FINANCE

Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North): Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a very dark day for this Parliament. As the youngest Member of Parliament in the House, I am extremely disillusioned and disappointed by the actions of this Government. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) should have demanded the Minister's resignation as required by the tradition of Parliament when Budget secrets are released. This so-called Budget is not a valid document. This event is one of the most extraordinary blunders in the history of parliamentary Government. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) should have resigned.

Disclosure for potential financial gains is a serious violation of the supreme authority of Parliament. Let us restore public trust in this Parliament and ask this Government and the Prime Minister for the Minister's resignation.

THE BUDGET

LEAK OF DOCUMENT—STATEMENT BY LEADER OF THE
OPPOSITION

Mr. Felix Holtmann (Portage—Interlake): Mr. Speaker, last night in a hastily summoned news conference the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Turner) declared that we had a non-Budget presented at a non-event by a non-Minister.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Holtmann: We obviously did have a Budget. Anyone who bought a package of cigarettes this morning can tell you so. We obviously did have an event and we are having an after event right now, Mr. Speaker. *The Ottawa Citizen* today put it perfectly about our Finance Minister, as follows:

Wilson acted swiftly, adroitly and with common sense. If anything, he looks like an even more solid Finance Minister. He proved again that leadership is not measured by a lack of problems but by the ability to deal decisively with problems.

To quote the late esteemed Member of this House, the Right Hon. John Diefenbaker:

When you are hunting big game you do not get diverted by rabbit tracks.

Canadians will not be fooled nor will our Finance Minister be diverted by rabbit tracks laid down by the Opposition. It is time for the Opposition bunnies to regroup in their burrow.

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THE BUDGET

CALL FOR RESIGNATION OF MINISTER OF FINANCE

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, the question is not so much how this Chamber is affected, although that is a big issue. We have to remember that there are 26 million Canadians who are also shareholders and owners of this country. It is through their citizenship that they are repulsed by the activities of this Government. This is no joking matter. It is not a light matter. It is not a laughing matter that the previous speaker wishes to make it out to be.

We need a new Budget to restore new confidence. We need a new Minister who can restore integrity.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!