

Oral Questions

[English]

REQUEST FOR NAME OF OFFICIAL WHO RECEIVED
TELEPHONED INFORMATION FROM MUTUAL LIFE

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, the House and Canadians know that on April 27 Jack Masterman, Chief Executive Officer of Mutual Life of Canada, contacted a member of the staff of the Minister of Finance to inform that person that Mutual Life had been in possession of the *Budget in Brief* since April 25.

• (1440)

Precisely who in the office of the Minister of Finance was contacted? Who, in turn, did he contact and when? Were there any other calls made to the President of Mutual Life? By whom? Who in government contacted Mr. Masterman from Mutual Life? What instructions, advice or any—

Mr. Speaker: If the Hon. Member has a series of questions, perhaps someone on the other side might want to deal with them.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my information is that the original call came to the office of the Minister of Finance. In the absence of the Minister of Finance it was immediately turned over to the Deputy Minister of Finance. He proceeded with the verifications, the consultations with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, advising the police at that time, and then advising the Secretary of the Cabinet. That is my information. If my hon. friend has anything at variance with that, I will be happy to examine it.

[Translation]

REQUEST AS TO WHEN MR. HARTT OBTAINED
INFORMATION AND TO WHOM HE COMMUNICATED IT

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, we learned that the Prime Minister was not aware of the leak for two hours. We also learned that for 28 days, the Government hid this second leak from the Canadian people. I would like to know at what time on what day Mr. Hartt, of the Prime Minister's Office, obtained the information and to whom he communicated it.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I got my information between 3.30 and 4 p.m. from Mr. Tellier, as I told the House. It was between 3.30 and 4 o'clock.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Hartt!**Mr. Mulroney:** Pardon?**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Hartt.

Mr. Mulroney: No, it was Mr. Tellier who provided me with this information, Mr. Tellier having obtained it a few minutes before from Mr. Gorbet, the Deputy Minister of Finance. So I find the process quite normal and logical. Now if the Hon. Member is asking me whether I was informed by anyone besides Mr. Tellier, the answer is no! I was informed in the circumstances by this individual, just as I said.

INSTRUCTIONS TO STAFF CONCERNING LEAKS

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): My question is for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. We have seen how quickly the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor General inform the House. There were allegations of other leaks on the night of April 26 and on April 27. What instructions were given to the office staff of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance concerning the procedures to follow if they found out about a second leak?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is completely ridiculous to suggest that the day before, we would warn individuals at the Privy Council or in my office about what to do if there were a second, third or fourth leak. When we found out that there had been a leak, right after, we asked for permission to come before the House with the Budget. The answer from the opposition parties was no. So, I ordered the Minister of Finance to make it public immediately and the RCMP to launch an investigation. This investigation began the day before and will continue until it ends and charges are laid.

So everything that was done the night before and the next day was consistent with an independent inquiry by the RCMP.

[English]

POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, Canadians and this House are sick and tired of hearing from this Cabinet: "There ain't nobody here but us chickens".

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!