

*Oral Questions*

simply ask would the Prime Minister assure the House that what appeared in *The Citizen* today, including the picture of what purports to be a page in the budget document and speech itself, is, in fact, not accurate, that there has in fact been no leak, and that at eight o'clock tonight, when the Minister of Finance does table his budget for the record, we will find that what has already been leaked is in truth not an accurate reflection of the forthcoming budget?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I assume that if the Hon. Member discovers that at eight o'clock, then this will lay the whole matter to rest. In that case, I invite him to wait until eight o'clock and we will draw the same conclusions as he appears to be drawing.

## REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF BOND TRADING

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is again directed to the Prime Minister. Would he indicate to the House what steps he has taken to determine if in fact a leak has occurred? Are there other pages of the budget document which have possibly been leaked? Finally, has he taken steps to ensure that securities commissions in every Province in Canada will be immediately asked to investigate what trading has taken place, particularly in the very volatile bond field, to determine if insider profits have indeed been made?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, it would seem to me that any of these questions, if justified, would be better asked after the budget, if, in fact, it appears that there has been outside knowledge of what was in the budget. However, for the time being, once again, we do not know what will be in the budget for certain.

**Mr. Stevens:** But you don't deny it.

● (1420)

**Mr. Trudeau:** Anybody who is speculating on figures that he thinks might be in the budget might be mistaken as to the basis on which he is speculating. Therefore I do not see any way in which you could ask the securities commission to investigate something which is still hypothetical.

## EFFECT OF POSSIBLE DISCLOSURE ON FINANCIAL MARKETS

**Mr. John Thomson (Calgary South):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In his opinion did the Minister of Finance's disclosure of privileged information relating to the budget have any influence on the financial or money markets in this country?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, in my opinion they have not because I do not think anyone is going to risk any heavy sums of money on some news which might or might not be true. In fact the Hon. Member can look at the market figures himself. I am told that there has

been no move in the bond figures which would be the relevant ones, I suppose, which apply now. Any move in the stock market was comparable in New York and Toronto. I doubt whether yesterday's going on would have influenced the American dollar that much, or the American stock market.

## VALUE OF DOLLAR—INTERVENTION BY BANK OF CANADA

**Mr. John Thomson (Calgary South):** Madam Speaker, let me quote to the Prime Minister from the Canadian Dow Jones as of 10 a.m. this morning:

The Canadian dollar continued its downward slide of yesterday.

Dealers said reports of a leak of Finance Minister Marc Lalonde's budget presentation tonight, which allegedly will show an estimated deficit of \$31.2 billion for the current fiscal year, have added to the Canadian fund's weakness. Dealers said the Canadian fund has slipped as low as 80.66 U.S. this morning before the Bank of Canada intervened.

Does the Prime Minister believe that the Bank of Canada's position has been jeopardized by virtue of the leak, as reported?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I suppose there are any number of factors which influence the state of the bond and stock markets. One of them could be that the American dollar has strengthened in Europe and therefore other currencies, including the Canadian currency, would weaken against it. But the Hon. Member would be clever indeed, and perhaps many times a millionaire—

**Some Hon. Members:** He is.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** He earned it, too.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Well, let us ask the Hon. Member then, if he has made much money, and if he thinks he could on the basis of the journals he read last night?

**Mr. Thomson:** Indeed I could if I had been aware of it in time before the financial markets closed here in eastern Canada. However, financial markets were still open on the West Coast when the leak was made known. I was not in possession of that information but I certainly could have made money had I known—a substantial amount of money.

**Madam Speaker:** Order.

## REQUEST FOR MINISTER'S RESIGNATION

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, this is a very sad day for Canada. Canadians were waiting to hear tonight's budget in the hope that it would bear news that would encourage an economic recovery in the country. Because of the apparent bungling of the Minister of Finance, a number of specific references to the budget have now been released.

Members of Parliament were given to understand that selected journalists were in receipt of privileged information yesterday afternoon that could have been used for their's and others' personal gain. Would this fact not encourage the Prime Minister to ask for the resignation of the Minister of Finance?