

Supply

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): That is just part of the long list of character assassinations and duplicity of this Member of Parliament from the Yukon. That he should be so outraged at the immorality of someone in public life, let alone the Minister of Finance is literally, almost more than I can bear.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Don't slip.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Hon. Members should look at the track record of this Hon. Member and his behavioural pattern over the years. I might say that even in my own trial against *The Toronto Sun*, even after the charge was erroneously made by the *Sun*, reference was unfortunately and unceremoniously made to it by certain Members of the Opposition. The Hon. Member for Yukon will recall that in a debate in the House of Commons he again made reference to some type of smear conduct linking me to that story in *The Toronto Sun*. He was to find later that the *Toronto Sun* story was totally false, as reported in the transcript of evidence, and I won a judgment of \$75,000.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): That might indicate that not only is there a disturbing similarity of conduct and behaviour on the part of the Hon. Member for Yukon with reference to his previous deplorable conduct back in the sixties, into the seventies and now, but that there is also a deplorable and distasteful pattern of consistency with that of the *Toronto Sun*. Is there any greater insult I can pay to any Member of Parliament?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, I have some questions. First, let me express our bewilderment that the Minister has stored up that speech for so long. We are glad that he finally got some of it off his chest.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark: Second, let me congratulate him on his success with the *Toronto Sun*.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): They were not very kind to you either, Joe.

Mr. Clark: The Minister made reference, in his single allusion to the question under debate here today, I believe, to the memorandum from Mr. Cohen, the Deputy Minister to the former Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who is now the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde). I presume that since he referred to it, he is familiar with all its aspects. He will

know that that memorandum from Mr. Cohen to Mr. Lalonde began with the words, "You will recall that Mr. Gillespie has organized", etc. In other words, there was a very clear reference in the memorandum to an earlier occasion when this involvement by a former Minister, Mr. Gillespie, had been brought to the attention of the present Minister of Finance.

Would the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development tell us, what were those earlier occasions? Will he elaborate upon the words in that memorandum "You will recall"? How long in advance did the Minister of Finance know?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Yellowhead—

Mr. Nielsen: "Right Hon."

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): —must have heard the Minister of Finance when he gave that very explanation in his opening remarks. Let me just tell the Hon. Member that the Minister of Finance clearly stated to the House that he obviously must have been familiar with the situation to the degree it was brought to his attention, but he forgot, and he has explained all the dealings he had. Why, it would be totally impossible for any Minister to recall all those events in a portfolio as busy as that. However, that is not the point.

What I really said about the memorandum was "Show me". Of course, this is where the fundamental weakness rests with the Official Opposition. Nowhere in that dissertation of the Leader of the Opposition, including his utilization of the document, did he back up his so-called or alleged facts with any evidence. I challenge him, turning his challenge back to him. I assume that the previous Leader of the Conservative Party also read the document. Would he show me where there is any basis for coming to the conclusion that there has been any breach of the guidelines in the memorandum? That is the point at issue.

Some Hon. Members: Right on.

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, I will have—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): I have a problem. The House will realize that it is one o'clock, and accordingly I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.