

Oral Questions

find if he consults *Hansard* and not the front page of a newspaper here in Ottawa, that there was no reference made either to a network or to an individual.

Mr. Tobin: Who else was charged in the media? There was only one person charged.

Mr. Mulroney: No, my hon. friend is wrong. He says there was only one person charged.

Mr. Tobin: One reporter.

Mr. Mulroney: There were a number of people charged. That is exactly the indication that I was conveying. Everything that I said was perfectly consistent with the facts and my hon. friend knows that.

DISREGARD FOR JUSTICE ALLEGED—RESPONSE BY
GOVERNMENT

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I want to again ask the Minister of Justice, the chief law officer of the Crown, how there could possibly be a fair trial for Mr. Small or anyone with these words on the record of the Prime Minister and in their context—and I am quoting from *Hansard*—they can only refer to one person. Why is the Minister of Justice and the Prime Minister showing utter disregard for justice in this country?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this has been the course of the pattern in the House. The Hon. Member begins with a question based on prefatory remarks which turn out to be absolutely false. When the falsehood is pointed out, rather than withdraw and apologise for those remarks, he then moves on to another. What was said yesterday is in *Hansard*. Contrary to what the Member suggests, there was no reference to an individual. There was no reference to a network. There was a response to a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition in the best traditions of the Canadian Parliament.

MUTUAL LIFE BUDGET LEAK—RCMP INVESTIGATION
LAUNCHED

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Prime Minister. It concerns statements that he made yesterday about the second or the Mutual Life Budget leak. Yesterday, in the House of Commons, the Prime Minister said about his own reaction to the first Budget leak, and I quote:

—I instructed the Minister of Finance to make the budget measures public immediately.

Given how quick on the draw the Prime Minister was in reacting to the first Budget leak, does he still expect us to believe that in the second and far more serious leak, he did nothing for two hours, and once he did find out he never bothered to contact his Cabinet colleagues that day? Does he still maintain that? Does that not stretch credulity just a little bit?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this would have to be probably the tenth or twelfth time that question has been asked. My hon. friend—

Mr. Tobin: And never an answer yet.

Mr. Mulroney: I will reply again and perhaps give an answer that might satisfy the opposition Members who are asking questions. I said that I instructed the Minister to make the Budget public. That is quite right. I also indicated yesterday in response to the question from the Leader of the Opposition that apart from that instruction I requested immediately that evening that a full Royal Canadian Mounted Police inquiry be launched. Once that inquiry was launched that night there should never have been an attempt by anybody to interfere with the proper conduct of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police inquiry. Everything that was done from that moment on until today has been in keeping with that tradition.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I say to the Prime Minister that he has selective amnesia in terms of what he said and what he did not say.

[*Translation*]

PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): I have a supplementary. On May 23, the Minister of Finance explained his 28-day silence on the second Budget leak, saying that the second leak was a mere allegation. Yesterday, the Prime Minister informed the House that Mr. Gorbet, the Deputy Minister of Finance, received the call on April 27 and checked the information. I would like to ask the Prime Minister which truth is the right one. Was it information that had been checked or just an allegation? Which was it?

[*English*]

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I point out for the House and those who care to observe, the clear double standard that my hon. friend and others are engaging in. When the Royal Canadian Mounted Police conducts police inquiries pursuant to objective criteria that result in charges being laid against Members of this Government, my hon. friend says that is terrific. When the Royal Canadian Mounted Police,