

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, McCarthy is alive and well in this House—

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. McGrath:** —because the Leader of the Opposition challenged the Minister of Finance after the accusation had been made.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Exactly.

**Mr. McGrath:** And the accusation made by the Minister of Finance was that the Leader of the Opposition had somehow benefited financially from his representations to the Minister of Finance.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. McGrath:** That is what we are talking about here. I say to the Minister of Finance that is not only McCarthy-like, it is sleazy. In any other civilized Parliament, the Minister of Finance would have to resign.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

GOVERNMENT POLICY—RELEASE OF CORRESPONDENCE  
WRITTEN BY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, let me ask another question of the Acting Prime Minister. Not only the Members of this House, but every citizen of this country has a right to know, even from this Government with its limited mandate, if they can expect to have the privacy of their files respected and if they can expect not to have Ministers of the Government search those files and stand in their place in this House, in a clear abuse of the privileges of this House, and then misrepresent the citizens in a McCarthy-like way.

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I think that what I said makes it absolutely clear to anybody who wanted to listen that what happened in the particular case to which we are referring was really exceptional. It was very special circumstances, which was the challenge issued to the Minister of Finance who received that document, obviously.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Epp:** No way. You can do better than that.

**Mr. Pepin:** Obviously, what I have said implied, on my part anyway, that this is not something that should be repeated.

With respect to the borderlines between freedom of information, the Secrecy Act—

**Mr. McGrath:** And the Privacy Act.

**Mr. Pepin:** —the Privacy Act, and every other Act, I beg to defer to the Minister of Justice, for example, who would answer, if the Hon. Member for Provencher wants to repeat

*Oral Questions*

his question—I will give him notice of it and he will decipher the relationship between all these acts.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** A short supplementary.

REQUEST FOR APOLOGY FROM MINISTER OF FINANCE

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Acting Prime Minister, who is a very decent and honourable man, if we can expect from the Minister of Finance, if not his resignation, then at least an apology to the Leader of the Opposition and the people of this country?

**Mr. Stevens:** Apologize.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, in the heat of an exchange in the House last week with the Leader of the Opposition, I responded on the basis of an impression I had from representations which the hon. gentleman had made to my Deputy Minister in a meeting on January 25, 1983, concerning the retirement allowances of senior officials, senior personnel—

**Mr. Nielsen:** Superieur.

**Mr. Lalonde:** —I believed that these representations had been made in writing. After verification of the departmental files, it became obvious that no such written representations had been submitted at that time.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Nielsen:** A well prepared statement.

**Mr. Lalonde:** The Leader of the Opposition, in his capacity as the president of Iron Ore, had made such written representations earlier to my predecessor and to his Deputy Minister, and these documents were tabled in this House last Friday.

The impression I had last week was obviously incorrect. I wish to express to the House, and to the Leader of the Opposition, my regrets at the repercussion of my remarks for the Leader of the Opposition—

**Mr. Nielsen:** And on yourself.

**Mr. Lalonde:** —and as the Opposition House Leader says, obviously for myself, too. But I express my regrets, and I apologize.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

REFERENCE TO CONVERSATION BETWEEN CITIZEN AND  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE OFFICIAL

**Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. Just so that we can clarify the issue here with respect