

*Oral Questions*

Member is really asking me to do is to express a legal opinion. He knows that I cannot do that on the floor of the House of Commons, even if I did have the legal expertise, Mr. Speaker.

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**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MR. TIMOTHY YAEGER,  
MINISTER AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH  
OFFICE

**Mr. Speaker:** I would like to draw to the attention of the House the presence in the gallery of Mr. Timothy Yaeger, Minister at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with special responsibility for North and South America.

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

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[*Translation*]

**REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION**

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM A  
COMPANY — GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. On May 4, 1988, Roger Machines International Inc. applied for IRDP assistance to study a continuous mining machine. According to officials, the project is worth recommending, but there is no more money in this program.

My question is: Since no more funds are available in this program, can the Minister tell me today in this House whether he can transfer this application to the Canada-Québec mining sub-agreement and whether funds will be released immediately under another program to carry out this research project in the Val d'Or mining region in the Abitibi?

• (1450)

[*English*]

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, I am not at liberty to discuss the particulars of this project until the applicant is informed of my Department's decision. However, the Canada-Quebec subagreement on economic development for the regions of Quebec provides a program framework relating to research and technological development. It is intended that there will be a joint Canada-Quebec innovation program within this framework, and although

the federal Government's position has been elaborated for some time, the Quebec Government has yet to make its position known. When that happens, I will certainly refer this project to that particular subagreement for adjudication.

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**THE BUDGET**

ASSURANCES SOUGHT RESPECTING PROFIT-TAKING

**Hon. Roy MacLaren (Etobicoke North):** Mr. Speaker, the RCMP announced yesterday that they have completed their investigation into the Budget leaks, but the Canadian people still have no assurance that there was no profit-taking as a result of the advance knowledge of the contents of the Budget. Will the Deputy Prime Minister now assure all Canadians that a full-scale investigation into possible profit-taking is under way, and will the Deputy Prime Minister detail precisely what action is now being taken?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Pierre Blais (Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)):** Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat what I said many times. The Hon. Member raises a very important question, because from the outset, we said that this possibility that people could profit from the early release of budget details could in fact result in profiteering. I personally asked the RCMP Commissioner to conduct a complete review and investigation of this matter and to date, we received— Because a few days ago, the Commissioner especially told me—and I don't know whether the Hon. Member was in the House then—but he told me that so far, we had no information that anyone had profited.

I just informed the House that this investigation is continuing and we will be informed in due course should further information be brought to our attention.

[*English*]

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION INTO PROFIT-TAKING  
REQUESTED

**Mr. MacLaren:** Mr. Speaker, experts in the financial community have indicated the various ways in which profits might be taken as a result of advance knowledge, and the Governor of the Bank of Canada yesterday confirmed that profit-taking might well result from speculation against the Canadian dollar. Is the Minister stating that the RCMP has not in fact completed its investigations, despite what is stated in its own press