

Oral Questions

tions and the reaction to them in general have not been violent.

It is my understanding that the demonstrations appear to have lost momentum at the moment and the Prime Minister and Deng Xiaoping seemed to have made headway in their efforts to exert control over the party, state and military. I am happy to say that we are not aware of any Canadians being in any danger there and that the situation appears to be calmer now. If the hon. gentlemen opposite are not interested they should have at least the good manners to listen. Others may be.

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[Translation]

THE BUDGET**BUDGETARY LEAKS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. While Canadians are asking for clear and straightforward answers about the leaks, the Minister of Finance has shamefully fled Parliament.

The annual OECD meeting may be extremely important, but why, Mr. Speaker—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The absence of a Minister is not something new in the House. An explanation has been given as to where the Minister is. The Hon. Member's question is getting very close to impugning the motives of the Hon. Minister and I know he would not want to do that. Please proceed with the question.

[Translation]

Mr. Martin (LaSalle—Émard): Why, Mr. Speaker, didn't the Prime Minister get his priorities straight and demand that the Minister of Finance act responsibly and face the House and the confidence crisis he himself created?

• (1450)

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has duties and obligations in Canada. He has duties and obligations internationally. He is very much in command. I am happy

to announce to the Hon. Member that it is business as usual.

CREDIBILITY OF MINISTER QUESTIONED

Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard): Mr. Speaker, the Minister who does not have the confidence of this House and the population of Canada cannot represent his country adequately abroad.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Hon. Member can put his question.

Mr. Martin (LaSalle—Émard): Mr. Speaker, the Minister is a lame duck. According to the Government he cannot even be told the truth by his own officials.

Some Hon. Members: Sit down!

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member will please put his question.

[English]

Mr. Martin (LaSalle—Émard): Mr. Speaker, given the crisis and the responsibility of the Minister, why did the Government not send another Minister whose credibility would not be in question?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is questioning the fact that the Minister of Finance does not have the confidence of the House. If he is so sure of that, then let him put a motion of confidence about our Minister of Finance before the House and then we will see what happens.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ABILITY TO PROFIT FROM BUDGET LEAKS

Hon. Roy MacLaren (Etobicoke North): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister.

On May 26, the Minister of Finance stated that "members of the financial community believe that there is not a basis on which people would be able to make money based on the information that was in the *Budget in Brief*".