

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Mulroney:** —because the police are going to investigate it fully—

**Mr. Broadbent:** How about leaks in your office?

**An Hon. Member:** Did you initiate the leaks?

**Mr. Mulroney:** —if this is their determination. Any allegations of any kind, if they are deemed to be serious, will be dealt with by the police in their assessment of the requirements for them to secure justice.

**Mr. Dingwall:** Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the Prime Minister is abandoning his responsibilities.

**An Hon. Member:** Question.

**Mr. Dingwall:** As the First Minister of this country he ought to undertake—

**Mr. Crosbie:** Question.

**Mr. Dingwall:** —an immediate investigation and then to convey those investigations—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member is forcefully putting his point but it was getting very argumentative. I would ask the Hon. Member to put his question.

## REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER CONDUCT INVESTIGATION

**Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Why does he refuse to exercise his responsibilities, investigate these selective leaks which are prejudicing individuals unduly, and then give that information to the RCMP? Or is there a cover-up, a sleazy operation, by the Prime Minister?

• (1150)

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** What a pathetic—

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair would prefer, as the Chair has indicated, that some care is used with words. The word “sleazy” was originally used to describe garments or clothing of a low quality. Perhaps it is not completely unparliamentary, but I would ask that all Hon. Members be very careful in the use of words describing less than high quality clothes in a context which might be taken as offensive.

**Mr. Mulroney:** All Members understand the need for the little theatrics of the Hon. Member to make the clip tonight on the news.

The Liberal Party is already in up to here with regard to their statement of principle by the defence critic that they are not interested in the police prosecuting this matter, they are interested in a circus from which they can profit politically. This is not a partisan issue.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member for Oshawa is rising.

## ATTRIBUTION OF LEAKS TO PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has referred to the need for justice for everyone. Earlier this week the Prime Minister described the former Minister as a good Canadian, and subsequent to that he quite correctly said that there should not be prejudging of the individual. In the last 48 hours there have been leaks, directly attributed to his office, on the radio, television, and in the newspapers, that can only be described as slanderous in their content about the Minister, his wife, and former associates. Will the Prime Minister now commit himself to undertaking an investigation of this terrible, damaging information in pursuit of the very justice for which he is calling?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** My hon. friend has said there have been leaks in the last 48 hours that are slanderous, damaging, and unfair. Think of the statements made by members of the Opposition in their prefatory remarks that have been slanderous, damaging, and unfair to a number of people in regard to the serenity and the fairness of this particular inquiry.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Which ones?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Right Hon. Prime Minister will answer the question and, as I have asked other Hon. Members, try to refrain from getting into a debate. I must point out that some questions are more provocative than others, and it is only natural that the response will end up in much the same vein.

**Mr. Mulroney:** I wish to say to my hon. friend that if he is seeking the truth via a fair and impartial way when confronted with serious allegations, I hope he will agree that the most important and proper way to do this is through an unfettered police inquiry, which in no way prohibits or inhibits the possibility of any further action at an appropriate time. Nothing should be done that would in any way inhibit the fairness of that. I agree with my hon. friend in that regard. That is why any suggestion to the contrary should and no doubt will be investigated immediately by the police. It is important that they maintain that authority over the inquiry.

## REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER SPEAK TO STAFF MEMBERS

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** The Prime Minister has said publicly that he wants a fair and impartial assessment to take place of the Minister, and all those associated with him, and not have a slanderous approach. Will the Prime Minister undertake to speak with the people in his office and find out who is leaking these stories that can only have a slanderous and negative effect on the personalities in question? In other words, would the Prime Minister make sure that there is no self-serving activity by the people in his office, and instead