

Oral Questions

Party need not have waited until today to discover that; that information was in *The Toronto Star* last week.

Second, no, he was not my chief of staff. He was chief of staff to the Hon. Erik Nielsen and stayed on as a special adviser during the transition period.

Third, General Peart served over 30 years in uniform. He was at no time involved in any way in the Oerlikon dossier. The Oerlikon dossier was handled after his arrival by the office of the Associate Minister of National Defence.

To respond to the other element of the Hon. Member's question, all information related to this matter was fully disclosed by General Peart to the Assistant Deputy Registrar General, who indicated that General Peart was in full compliance with the conflict of interest guidelines.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, as the Minister knows, Section 60(c) of the conflict of interest guidelines prohibits a person who was in Mr. Peart's position, for a period of 12 months after he has left the Government from advising, for commercial purposes, any company or business entity on the policies and programs of the Department which he left. If this is the case, it would seem to me on the surface that we do have a violation of the conflict of interest guidelines.

Would the Minister explain why Mr. Peart is not in violation of Section 60(c) of the conflict of interest guidelines?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, General Peart fully disclosed all relevant information to the Deputy Registrar General.

Mr. Broadbent: That is not it.

Mr. Beatty: All relevant information was disclosed to the Deputy Registrar General. General Peart received a letter from the Deputy Registrar General indicating he was in full compliance with the conflict of interest guidelines.

I would think that this distinguished gentleman who served for over 30 years in uniform deserves the thanks of our country and not this sort of innuendo.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT FULLY DISCLOSE ROLE OF MR. BAZIN IN OERLIKON AFFAIR

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister.

The Government is engaged in a cover-up operation. It knows a lot more than it is letting on. Mr. Bernard Roy had a meeting with people who gave him plenty of details. When is the Government, among other things, going to inform the

House fully on the specific role played by Senator Bazin in the Saint-Jean land flip?

• (1430)

[*English*]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, again we hear the word "coverup". The Prime Minister has been in the House every day with the exception of one day last week, and he answered every question put to him. We are here today answering questions. An RCMP investigation has been launched. Other action may be taken as the situation unfolds.

Mr. Bazin has issued a public statement. I know of no charges that have been laid against him. He is not accused of anything. Unless the Hon. Member has some clear indication of wrongdoing on the part of Mr. Bazin, perhaps he should cease and desist this sort of innuendo.

The Hon. Member for Sudbury said quite correctly on the weekend that innuendo is certainly something that should not be part and parcel of this very serious matter. Here we have his colleague engaging in that same sort of activity. I think we should allow the RCMP to complete its investigation—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[*Translation*]

ALLEGED STATEMENT BY MEMBER OF CABINET

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): The Deputy Prime Minister pointed out that Mr. Bazin issued a statement. He is right. Perhaps he could explain why a Minister of the Crown, the Minister responsible for Federal-Provincial Relations, namely the Hon. Lowell Murray, reproduced this statement word for word under Government letterhead? Why is he circulating Senator Bazin's incomplete and watered down version under his Government letterhead? Can you answer that?

[*English*]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the Hon. Member is getting at. I know Members of Parliament and Senators have mailing privileges and there are certain guidelines that are adhered to, but certainly Members of Parliament have some latitude in terms of communicating with constituents and/or interested people.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Why this one?

Mr. Mazankowski: Perhaps that might be a question that his colleagues in the other place may raise with the Member.

INFORMATION CONCERNING LAND SPECULATION

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister and also concerns the Oerlikon Aerospace affair and possible connections to senior Conservatives close to the Prime Minister and the