

Oral Questions

a so-called joke which reads: "What did Charged Marge's dad say when he saw her plug her umbilical cord into the wall?"

This kind of product should not be allowed to come into Canada and should not be sold to our children. I call upon the Government to use the obscenity provisions in the Criminal Code to stop this kind of activity.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[*Translation*]

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

PATRONAGE ALLEGATIONS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister.

I have in my hand here an article by Gilbert Lavoie in *La Presse*, according to which the former Minister of the Environment and Member for Rosemont says, and I quote:

"I personally know that patronage goes on and has continued to grow, that there is a pay-off system for contracts."

Mr. Speaker, this is no laughing matter. I ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the Government intends to do as a result of these revelations in this morning's *La Presse*?

[*English*]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the details to which the Hon. Member has referred, but if they are anything like what we have been subjected to over the last little while in the House, they are half-truths, falsehoods, distortions of the facts, innuendo, smear, and allegations based on unsubstantiated rumours. If the Hon. Member has a specific allegation, why does he not come forth with it? I would be very glad to look into it.

ALLEGATIONS ATTRIBUTED TO FORMER MINISTER

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. The Deputy Prime Minister will know of these revelations made by a colleague of his in the Conservative Caucus, a former Minister who sat for three years at the same cabinet table as he did.

Can the Deputy Prime Minister tell this House when exactly it was that he and the Prime Minister found out about the allegations made public by one of his own colleagues today? Those allegations are that there is a system of kickbacks in existence. Those allegations were made by a Conservative Member of Parliament and former Cabinet colleague of the Deputy Prime Minister. When did he first find out, and what is he going to do about it?

• (1420)

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I answered that in response to the Member's first question. I am not aware of that which the Hon. Member has raised. It is probably based on unsubstantiated rumour and innuendo. If he has something specific to bring forth, let him bring it on and we will look at it.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister may call me what he likes, but one of his colleagues in the Conservative caucus has made an allegation to the media.

Very specifically, when did he first learn of these allegations? Even I refuse to believe that it was two minutes ago. Can he specifically tell the House whether he is willing to refer this matter to a parliamentary committee? There have been a number of such allegations made by very credible sources, this time by one of his colleagues. Isn't that enough?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member has specific allegations, why does he not outline them to the House or bring them to me and we will take them into consideration?

The Member is using a broad brush to suggest wrongdoing. If he has some clear examples of wrongdoing, let him bring them forth and we will certainly look at them.

KICKBACK ALLEGATIONS—INVESTIGATION QUERY

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, half an hour ago Deputy Commissioner Jensen confirmed to me by telephone that indeed the RCMP has asked the FBI for assistance, through the American Embassy here in Ottawa, in investigations relating to kickback allegations.

My question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Is the Government aware of this? Do the allegations and this investigation, which is ongoing, involve any Ministers presently sitting in the Government or Members of the Conservative caucus? If so, what steps will the Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister take to ensure the integrity of the Government during this investigation?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, if Hon. Members have some specific allegations to bring forth, they can certainly do that and they will be considered. The Member is making broad and sweeping unfounded allegations, using newspaper and radio reports. I regret that I cannot respond with specific answers to the broad charges the Hon. Member is making.

The Member has been around here for a long time and has served on both sides of the House. If he has specific allegations