

**Mr. Crosbie:** He leaked his own Budget.

**Mr. Milliken:** —it was not the same as the document that had been filmed. His document had been changed. As Mr. Trudeau said so carefully at the time: "It is not a Budget until it gets into the House". That is why we say we do not have a Budget today. There was not one then until Mr. Lalonde tabled it in this House. When he did, it was not the same document that had been filmed.

In spite of that distinction, which I submit is a very significant one, I would like to read a question that was asked on April 19, 1983 by the Hon. Sinclair Stevens, a gentleman well known for his knowledge of resignations and the requirement for resignations from Cabinets. He asked the following question:

Madam Speaker, in view of the story with which we are well acquainted, for example, *The Citizen* indicating that a budget leak occurred yesterday evening, in which a deficit of \$31.2 billion is anticipated for the forthcoming year, and in view of the fact that this is an example of gross negligence on the part of a Minister, a breach of a Minister's oath of secrecy, something totally unacceptable in our parliamentary system, would the Prime Minister indicate whether he has received the resignation of the Minister of Finance and, if so, whether he has accepted it?

That was the question that was posed. No one challenged the fact that if there had been a gross breach of budget secrecy the Minister should resign. Yet this Government denies that principle. It denies that principle in relation to the taxes that it seeks to impose upon the people. It denies the principle in relation to the expenses that it is trying to claim from this House by having them passed by Governor General's warrants.

• (1650)

I would like to read another quotation of the Acting Leader of the Opposition on the same day in 1983, the Hon. Erik Nielsen, a man of fond memory to Hon. Members opposite.

**An Hon. Member:** He is looking after VIA.

**Mr. Milliken:** He is looking after VIA now, the carving up operation. He said:

No doubt they will try to brazen this out by bringing in changes, altering a decimal point or altering a few pertinent phrases in that Budget. Does the Prime Minister really believe that he can get away with that and that that will cure this gross breach of the normal secrecy that surrounds budgets?

*Privilege—Mr. Milliken*

Note the words: Normal secrecy.

**An Hon. Member:** Did he change it?

**Mr. Milliken:** Of course he did, and he was right, he could. Does he not agree that he should ask for the resignation of the Minister of Finance who, if he were self-respecting at all, would have submitted that resignation after he discovered his error yesterday? What would Mr. Nielsen say to the present Minister of Finance in these circumstances? Aye, there is a former Minister of Finance sitting across the way, the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie). He knows what it is like to be a Minister of Finance. He did not have leaks like this, and neither did the Leader of the Opposition when he was the Minister of Finance.

I want to turn to the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister. He gave us a lot of pious nonsense in the House this morning, suggesting that the House could only be called with unanimous consent. The Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria) has put paid to that argument in my submission. It is quite obvious that unanimous consent is not going to assist in the circumstances because as the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell indicated, it could only be obtained by having the House sitting and every Member here and agreeing.

Members of this House are elected to serve their constituents. They are elected to represent their constituents in Parliament. One of the ways they represent their constituents is by dealing with the financial plans of this Government, of any Government. Indeed, the House is charged with the responsibility for dealing with those financial plans in two aspects: on the expenditure side and on the revenue side as I have indicated.

What the Government is doing by its failure to deal with this Budget in a proper way, in having the Minister resign and setting a new date, in failing to bring its Estimates before the House in a timely way—they are still not here—and in producing its records for inspection by this House and allowing this House to deal with the questions of Supply and of Ways and Means in a proper and orderly way, is depriving us of our right to do our duty to represent our people, to represent our constituents in Parliament.