

As of last Monday, we had not yet received any reply. Can the Prime Minister or the Minister responsible tell the House whether he intends to request a public or judicial inquiry on this 1980 transaction?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I understand the Minister had to catch a plane and he has left the House. I will certainly take the question as notice and ensure the Minister gets back to the Hon. Member at the earliest possible occasion.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT FREEZE TRANSACTION

Mr. Robert Toupin (Terrebonne): Mr. Speaker, I would also like to tell the House that, last December, the non-profit corporation—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would you please ask your question without an overly long preamble.

Mr. Toupin: Mr. Speaker, can the Government also intervene to freeze a transaction made last December in relation to the transfer of the 736 units to a private company and allow these units to be transferred to the tenants cooperative?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Again, Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice and have the Minister get back to the Hon. Member.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

OERLIKON LAND TRANSACTION—ADVICE GIVEN BY LAW OFFICERS OF THE CROWN

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. I cannot recall a Government using the powers of a police inquiry relating to criminal or alleged criminal matters to choke off a general public review or public inquiry of matters affecting a Minister's public responsibilities in the administration of the business of the country.

This is a narrow use of the police power in this country. I want to ask the Prime Minister who sought the legal opinion, if there is one in writing, from the law offices of the Crown? And if he has one, will he table it?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is contrary to the contention that this is a narrow interpretation. The fullest, most complete measures which are available to a Government when there is an allegation of this nature are to turn it over to the police and ask them to

investigate fully, having told the House and my right hon. friend; first, having removed the Minister from office, having turned it over, and having told my right hon. friend a few days ago that nothing in that inquiry would preclude further acts as events unfold that might require another instrument to provide the kind of information coming public.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): That is sweeping it under the carpet.

Mr. Mulroney: There is no intention to do other than to ensure the fullest use of the prosecution requirements under the law in the event that that is what the RCMP decide.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): The Prime Minister may think that by firing his Minister he has closed the matter, but he has not. We have other matters and we will eventually find out when the Prime Minister first knew about this.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

PROVISIONS OF RCMP ACT

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): I refer to the RCMP Act—

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): How about the War Measures Act, John, and the peace power?

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):—and the only authority the Government would have to widen a police investigation would be under Section 18(d) of the Act by Order in Council. Is there an Order in Council? And would the Prime Minister table that Order in Council, otherwise there is no authority for any investigation at all?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I was informed, as I have indicated, of these facts on January 14, 1987, for the first time. That is exactly when I was advised of the information.

In regard to the police inquiry, it was initiated pursuant to the facts being brought to my attention. I was advised by the Clerk of the Privy Council this morning, and his chief legal adviser, that they had been advised by the Deputy Attorney General and Deputy Minister of Justice for Canada, as well as the Commissioner of the RCMP, of the information I have given, and the advice I have given to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): You have no written opinion.

Mr. Mulroney: I have conveyed to my right hon. friend the information received from the Clerk of the Privy Council who consulted with the Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Big deal.