

Oral Questions

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT RCMP REPORT BE MADE PUBLIC TODAY

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): The RCMP has submitted a report to the Government, and we have received a few details. What I am asking now is to have the full report released today.

Hon. Pierre Blais (Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)): Mr. Speaker, I will say it again. My colleague, who is a former solicitor general, ought to know that when a police force conducts an investigation, it does not submit any reports to anyone while the investigation is under way. Any lawyer, any solicitor general ought to know that. It is pretty obvious. Everybody knows that. One does not intervene in an investigation. It doesn't make sense!

[English]

TIMING OF GOVERNMENT KNOWLEDGE OF SECOND LEAK

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, I go one more time to the Deputy Prime Minister. In light of the fact that a Budget leak is a very serious situation, when the privileged few may have access to information ahead of the people of Canada, I want simply to know the following information: When did the Government find out about the second leak and why it did not inform Parliament immediately?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Blais (Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)): Mr. Speaker, perhaps my colleague was away just now when I answered that question. The Commissioner, Mr. Speaker—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Blais: That question was answered, Mr. Speaker, and I can repeat again that the RCMP Commissioner informed me that from the beginning, the investigation included the situation referred to yesterday in the news, and we must let the RCMP do its job. You should listen and you should respect the work done by the RCMP!

[English]

PROFITEERING—GOVERNMENT KNOWLEDGE

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, the Solicitor General is hiding behind the RCMP.

Some Hon. Members: Oh,oh!

Mr. Nystrom: He says he cannot comment on when and why because there is an RCMP investigation, but he already said it to the House that the RCMP has determined that there has been no profiteering. How can he on the one hand say there has been no profiteering while on the other hand not tell the House when they found out and why they will not tell us?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Blais (Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)): Mr. Speaker, I think that the point raised by my colleague is important. And that is why the Commissioner informed me that it is important to reassure Canadians that there was no profiteering from the budget leak. I think that is important: to date, no profiteering has been identified. That is why the RCMP Commissioner informed me.

[English]

KNOWLEDGE OF MINISTER OF FINANCE RESPECTING
LEAKS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I want to put my questions again to the Deputy Prime Minister. The Government is using the RCMP as a coverup for a parliamentary problem. What we are getting from the Solicitor General and the Minister of Justice are selective citations from an RCMP investigation. In that instance, we want a full publication of that investigation report now. In light of the Minister of Justice's admission that there may well have been other leaks, he said it here on the floor of the House, we want to know when the Minister of Finance learned of these other leaks, when he informed the Prime Minister of these other leaks, and why Parliament was not informed of these other leaks?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker—