

has been ascertained has been turned over to the RCMP, and that is a matter for their investigation.

#### OERLIKON'S DISMISSAL OF FORMER LEGAL COUNSEL

**Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Does the Deputy Prime Minister not see the need for a public inquiry, now that we have learned that Oerlikon's long-time legal counsel, Raymond Lette, after he informed Oerlikon about the irregularities concerning the land transaction, was fired and replaced by the law firm of the Prime Minister's good friend, Jean Bazin, for reasons—and I quote Mr. Lette—that had “absolutely nothing”, to do with the practice of law? Didn't it have everything to do with political influence?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I noted with interest the hon. gentleman's comments over the weekend where he suggested that it was not appropriate to engage in innuendo, and I think he has done that just now. I do not know—

**An Hon. Member:** Overcome by the rat pack.

**Mr. Mazankowski:**—why Oerlikon decided to change—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Sometimes the Speaker chooses not to hear things and sometimes the Speaker cannot help but hear things. I would ask the Hon. Member for Sudbury to remember there is a rule that questions should be put to Ministers within the area of their responsibility. I am sure the Hon. Member, in his supplemental question, will be careful to adhere to that.

#### REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

**Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury):** Mr. Speaker, let me repeat the question, because I believe the Deputy Prime Minister has the responsibility to request a public inquiry. I have simply quoted the former legal counsel for the firm of Oerlikon where he said that he was fired and replaced by Bazin's firm, specifically Bazin's firm, for reasons that had “absolutely nothing” to do with the practice of law. That is why I am asking the Deputy Prime Minister that the Government appoint a public inquiry. I am not suggesting that there is any legal wrongdoing, but I personally believe that the public needs to have its trust rebuilt in the political process in the country, and that it is his responsibility.

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I suppose the only people who can answer that question with any accuracy are the Oerlikon people themselves. I have no way of knowing why they chose to change lawyers at the time that they did.

With regard to the repeated request for a judicial inquiry, I think the Prime Minister has outlined and explained in reply to about a hundred questions which were advanced last week the reasons why the Government believes it appropriate to proceed

with an RCMP complete investigation. He has also left the door open for any further action should that be necessary. There has to be some consistency on the part of all of us.

It is rather interesting to note the vigour with which the Hon. Member and the Leader of the Opposition argued against the appointment of a public inquiry back last year, on May 16, and I could quote *ad infinitum*—

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the Minister probably could, but it is getting into debate. The Hon. Member for Oshawa.

• (1425)

#### STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO MEMBER FOR KITCHENER CONCERNING QUEBEC

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Deputy Prime Minister. It also pertains to what the Hon. Member for Kitchener is alleged to have said on the weekend. In discussing bribes, the Member went on to say that it is quite common in Quebec. It is a different province. “Quebec is different than the rest of us”.

If, after the Deputy Prime Minister checks and finds that the Member for Kitchener actually said this, will he demand an apology from the Member to all the people in the Province of Quebec?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of ifs in that question. As I undertook to the Leader of the Opposition, I will speak to the Hon. Member to determine the accuracy of the press report. First and foremost, I indicated that I disassociate myself from those comments if they are an accurate reflection of the Hon. Member, as do my colleagues. I think at this particular time the Hon. Member would want me at least to discuss the matter with the Hon. Member for Kitchener before making any further comment.

**Mr. Broadbent:** I agree with that, Mr. Speaker, but I also strongly believe that if the Member did say those things the Deputy Prime Minister must demand an apology from him.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF FORMER GENERAL BY OERLIKON

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I now have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Today I have learned that a J. B. Peart is now vice-president of corporate affairs for the Oerlikon Corporation. Will the Minister confirm for me that this is the same Mr. Peart who not long ago was his chief of staff—or a special assistant—and was the same man who was chief of staff to the former Minister of National Defence at the time the Oerlikon contract was let? If so, when Mr. Peart left his employment with the Government did he comply with Section 58 of the conflict of interest guidelines?

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Defence):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. First, the Hon. Leader of the New Democratic