

S. O. 52

[Text]

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

Question No. 126—Miss Grey:

For the fiscal years 1989–90 and 1990–91, for each province and territory, has the government made projections of (a) its total revenues and total expenditures on a public accounts basis and, if so, what are they (b) the total revenue impacts and total expenditure impacts of the Budget presented April 27, 1989, and, if so, what are they?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): a) and b) No.

[English]

Mr. Lewis: I ask that all remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: The question enumerated by the minister has been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I wish to advise the House that I have received two applications for an emergency debate, and I will hear them in the order they were received. I recognize the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 52

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Mr. Speaker: I think before the right hon. gentleman commences, and in order to help others on a similar motion today, I will hear carefully the application, of course. I do remind hon. members that an application for an emergency debate must be fairly brief and concise because under the rules there is no opportunity for reply or argument by any other member of the House. I know the right hon. gentleman will keep that in mind.

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): I rise to request an emergency debate relating to the administration of justice. There will be two aspects to this very brief submission. The first is that it is a matter of urgent public importance. The second is that it goes beyond the concept of *sub judice*. Needing to address both these questions briefly, I crave your indulgence and the indulgence of the House.

My submission is that the issue would not prejudice the rights of the accused in the matter of charges relating

to the budget leaks of last April. My submission is that we have obligations as members of Parliament to raise the very serious issue of political interference in the administration of justice. We want to raise the question of individual rights, the abuse of individual rights, in the way these charges were brought. We want to raise, if you allow us, the issue of solicitor–client privilege which may or may not exist between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Department of Justice, and the Crown prosecutor. We want to raise the issue of abuse of freedom of the press, of failure of ministers to answer truthfully on this issue in the House, the independence of our national police force, and the discretion of individual police officers to lay charges.

I submit that the *sub judice* convention, and it is only a convention, does not apply in this case because what we have to raise here in Parliament has little or nothing to do with the guilt or innocence of the accused before a court. The debate we seek is whether or not the government interfered with the impartial administration of justice in bringing these charges in the first place.

Those of us in Parliament cannot allow the government to use a trial to shield themselves. The convention—

Mr. Speaker: I would like to indicate to hon. members, and especially to the public watching, that this is a very, very serious issue, and I have relaxed the rules somewhat to hear the right hon. gentleman. I sense though that the right hon. gentleman is getting into the very debate that he asks for, and I must ask him to be very careful because I will be faced with a point of order I am sure.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I am dealing with the submission of why you are not bound by any *sub judice* rule. The convention is meant to protect defendants in a trial. It is not meant to protect government ministers.

The Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice said the Minister of Finance was the victim of a crime. We are suggesting very strongly to Your Honour that the police were therefore told that there had to be a crime and that charges had to be laid. No matter what the—

• (1150)

Mr. Speaker: I must ask the right hon. gentleman to help the Chair here. We are now getting into the very debate the right hon. gentleman is asking for, and I may very well hear exactly the same request shortly. There